Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

League Denies Iraq Lodged Complaint Against Jordan

JN3008141495 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 30 Aug 95 p 1

[Exclusive report by Fathi Khattab in Cairo]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Arab League has denied that Iraq has lodged an official complaint or protest with it against Jordan's interference in Iraq's domestic affairs. An Arab League General Secretariat source described as incorrect and mere fabrication a report by a Jordanian newspaper to the effect that Iraq has filed an official complaint that will be discussed by the Arab League Council in its forthcoming session. The source asserted that the agenda of the 104th round of League's Council comprises 39 main items that will be debated by the permanent representatives of member states. The source said that these items do not include any Iraqi complaint against Jordan, noting that no new items have been added at the request of any Arab state.

The agenda of the League's Council contains important issues on which an Arab consensus has been reached. These include: The statute of the Arab Court of Justice, the Arab code of honor on security and cooperation, the elimination of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, and developments pertaining to the Palestine question and the peace process.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 22 Aug

NC3108080395

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 22 August edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

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1. Al-Azhar's Rejection of Beijing Conference Document Marked
2. Muslim Brotherhood Offers 15 Principles for National Charter
3. Some 23 Appeals Against Arrest of Brotherhood Members Examined
4. Labor Party-Muslim Brotherhood Alliance Emphasized
5. Editor Discusses 'Religious Awakening' in United States
6. U.S. Islamic Leader Interviewed on Plans To Form Lobby
7. Writer Views 'Campaign' Against Islamists in Gulf
8. Israeli Revelations on POW's Killing Discussed
9. Ambassadors, Speakers Address Seminar on Bosnia-Herzegovina
10. Terrorism Against Tourism Discouraged as Harmful to Citizens

AL-AZHAR'S REJECTION OF BEIJING CONFERENCE DOCUMENT MARKED

The newspaper highlights a statement by al-Azhar Grand Imam Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq in which he maintains that the document on the table of the UN Conference on Women in the Chinese capital "conflicts with religious values." An unattributed 700-word report on the statement is published on page 1 under the banner headline: "Al-Azhar Officially Declares Its Rejection of Beijing's Women Conference Document" and the "full text" of the approximately 1,800-word statement is published on page 3.

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD OFFERS 15 PRINCIPLES FOR NATIONAL CHARTER

In a 2,500-word article on page 5, Muhammad al-Ma'mun al-Hudaybi, Muslim Brotherhood deputy general guide and official spokesman, declares the group's commitment to 15 "principles and bases" concerning society's life and urges all political parties and forces in the country to declare their commitment to them. Al-Hudaybi begins by referring to and summarizing three statements the Muslim Brotherhood issued in March 1994 and April 1995 on the issues of women, democracy, political pluralism, society, freedom, and terrorism. In those statements, he explains, the Muslim Brotherhood maintained that women, just like men, have a right to vote and to executive and legislative jobs and that the nation is the source of power and must have a written constitution and a representative council. In the statements the group also viewed Christians as brothers with similar citizenship rights, rejected violence, and denounced terrorism.

Al-Hudaybi says the Muslim Brotherhood, out of its belief in these principles, participated in a dialogue with various parties and effective forces in the country with a view to reaching an acceptable consensus on particular bases and principles. There was hope, he said, that such a consensus would accelerate reforms in the country and preserve individual and public rights, especially as this is election year for the People's Assembly and for the most important professional associations.

"Before the dialogue could end with an agreement on an acceptable formula by the various parties," al-Hudaybi adds, "some newspapers and magazines deliberately published excerpts and comments, some of which were

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inaccurate, especially regarding the position and views of the Muslim Brotherhood."

He goes on: "We said from the first meeting that we preferred to start with what could be achieved easily, namely, an agreement on a framework for political activity, one that makes opinion and persuasion the basis of competition among parties and political forces, one that emphasizes private and public freedom and the right to peaceful participation in political competition." He says the Muslim Brotherhood wanted to establish that before an agreement on content and on a joint philosophy for a common charter could be reached. But, al-Hudaybi adds, "very regrettably, some sides insisted on first determining the ideological content and the intellectual philosophies on which the charter should be based, rejecting any reference to the principles of Islam or adherence to the provisions of the esteemed shari'ah."

Al-Hudaybi then states: "We stress our adherence to the State system as a republican (whether presidential, parliamentary, or mixed), constitutional, parliamentary, and democratic system in line with Islamic principles. We commit ourselves, and ask others to commit themselves, to this and to the following principles and bases:

"First, full admission that the people are the source of power. No person, party, group, or organization can claim the right to assume or remain in power without obtaining the free and sound popular will.

"Second, commitment to and respect for the principle of power rotation through free general ballot.

"Third, emphasizing the freedom of personal thought.

"Fourth, emphasizing the right to practice religious rites of all recognized divine religions.

"Fifth, emphasizing free opinion and the right to express it peacefully according to public order, public ethics, and the basic constituents of society as stated in the first chapter of the Constitution. Freedom to own and use the various mass media (television, radio, video cassettes, fax machines, newspapers, magazines, books, and publications) is necessary to achieve this.

"Sixth, emphasizing the freedom to form political parties. No administrative body must have the power to deny or curb this right. The independent judicial power must be the authority to rule on what conflicts with public order, public ethics, and the basic constituents of the society, or what is considered a violation of commitment to peaceful activity. There must be no use of or threat to use violence.

"Seventh, emphasizing the right to hold, call for, and participate in mass meetings within the framework of the society's safety and without breaching public order, using violence, threatening to use violence, or carrying any weapons.

"Eighth, emphasizing the right to peaceful demonstrations.

"Ninth, emphasizing the need to represent the people through a freely elected representative council for a specific period, after which new elections are held. Election laws must guarantee the freedom and integrity of the polls and the neutrality of those arranging them.

"Tenth, emphasizing the right of every citizen—male and female— to participate in parliamentary elections if they meet the general conditions stipulated by the law.

"Eleventh, emphasizing the right of every man and woman to membership of the representative councils, whether through election or appointment, if they meet the general conditions stipulated by the law.

"Twelfth, ensuring the independence of the judiciary on its every level and in every area under its jurisdiction. All measures must be taken and all conditions must be set to distance judges from any suspicion of fear or greed. No one must be tried except by a judge and all extraordinary courts must be abolished. The jurisdiction of military courts must cover only crimes and violations relating to military discipline by the military only.

"Thirteenth, separating the power of accusation from the power of investigation. The public prosecution must be independent and not affiliated with the justice minister. Anyone detained by the prosecution as a precautionary measure must have the right to appeal to a judiciary party.

"Fourteenth, the Army must be removed from politics and become specialized in protecting the external security of the State. The government must not use the Army directly or indirectly to impose its will and control or to threaten public freedom.

"Fifteenth, the police and all internal security agencies must be considered civilian jobs as stipulated by the Constitution, and their mission must be determined as maintaining the security of the State and society as a whole. They must not be used to preserve the government entity or as a tool to oppress opposition. A system governing their work and their leadership must be set out to achieve this objective. In particular, they must not be allowed to interfere in political activity or general elections."

Reacting to calls to amend the Constitution, al-Hudaybi says: The problem lies not in the Constitution, but in the many laws that emptied the Constitution of its content.

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He says the laws that spoiled the principles of freedom, election laws, and the emergency law must be abolished.

SOME 23 APPEALS AGAINST ARREST OF MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD MEMBERS EXAMINED

A 150-word report by Khalid Yunus on page 1 says the State Security Court is examining 23 appeals against the continuing detention of Muslim Brotherhood members who participated in a scout camp near Alexandria. The report cites a lawyer saying that the accusations against the detainees were "spiteful" and the investigations "were not serious."

LABOR PARTY-MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD ALLIANCE EMPHASIZED

In a 2,000-word report on page 4, Subhi Buhayri cites Labor Party leader Mustafa Shukri and other speakers at the opening of a new Labor Party building in Alexandria. Shukri is cited as saying: "Today we declare from here, from Alexandria, that the slogan of 'Islam Is the Solution,' which we raised many years ago in the Labor Party and through our alliance [with the Muslim Brotherhood], will remain our policy, with all the great meaning it entails." He adds: "I say there is no solution to our economic, political, or social problems, but the teachings of Islam." He notes that the Labor Party was the first party to call for the application of Islamic shari'ah. On another topic, Shukri accuses the government of preparing to rig the People's Assembly elections. He says the Labor Party will not tire of demanding real democracy and free elections, noting that "election-rigging has become a characteristic and special mark of Egypt."

In a speech for the Muslim Brotherhood branch in Alexandria, Jum'ah Amin is cited as saying: "The virtuous alliance launched several years ago between the Labor Party and the Muslim Brotherhood will continue, God willing. It is based on principles, not interests."

EDITOR DISCUSSES 'RELIGIOUS AWAKENING' IN UNITED STATES

In an approximately 3,000-word article on page 2, Chief Editor Majdi Ahmad Husayn discusses "religious awakening" in the United States. He stresses that in the past 20 years American society has been preoccupied with ethical and religious issues, with more people returning to religion to fill a great spiritual vacuum created by huge material progress. He says that no matter what level of progress man achieves, he is always linked with the message of God.

Husayn discusses, as a sign of religious awakening, the document "Contract With the American Family," which the Christian Alliance, "the main backer of the Republican Party," presented to Congress. He notes that the document calls for establishing stronger family ties, respecting innocent human life and traditional values, allowing fairer religious practices, protecting parents' rights, encouraging charity, helping the poor, and restricting the spread of pornographic and indecent material. Husayn notes that more Americans are now going to church and more people are now realizing that "the teachings of religion are more harmonious with human instinct." He says President Clinton will certainly do something regarding this tide of religious awakening the Republican Party is mounting: "Clinton will fight on the front of ethics and virtue. He will not leave the White House easily, despite all the arrows directed at him."

Husayn concludes: "It is not our job to evaluate the performance and expected course of the Christian Alliance. We would only like to ask: If the American policy is now being conducted with the knowledge of the Christian Alliance, which enjoys a parliamentary majority, why, in our country, is the Islamic alliance (Labor Party-Muslim Brotherhood) viewed as a threat to civil society and democracy? Why is the Christian Alliance exercising all this influence in the United States, the Constitution of which says it is a secular country, while the Islamic alliance is being attacked in a country the Constitution of which states that Islamic shari'ah is the main source of legislation?" He adds: "In Egypt we know the answer. Sooner or later the country, God willing, will be ruled within the Islamic framework."

U.S. ISLAMIC LEADER INTERVIEWED ON PLANS TO FORM LOBBY

Page 9 features a 1,000-word report by Yusuf Sa'd on an interview with Muhammad Judah, former president of the American Islamic Center, on Muslims in the United States. He is cited as saying that Muslims in the United States, which he estimates to number between 8 and 12 million, are studying ways to unite under one leadership. He notes that Islamic centers, schools, and mosques are spread throughout American states and cities and that an Islamic television station covering the entire country will open in October. Judah says Muslims in the United States are now working to muster over 2 million voters so that they can have a say in American politics. But he cites "Christian extremism" and "Jewish extremism" as a hindrance. "We have now started to establish a Muslim lobby to confront the Zionist lobby in the United States," he says.

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WRITER VIEWS CAMPAIGN AGAINST ISLAMISTS IN GULF

A 500-word article by Muhammad Jamal 'Arafah on page 9 discusses "the age of transformation" in the Gulf, contending that changes in top government positions there are aimed at distancing the Islamists and bringing in secularists. He says this happened in Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, adding that he sees "an unusual oppression campaign" against ulema in those two countries as well as in Oman and the United Arab Emirates. The writer concludes that a campaign against Islamists in the Gulf seeks to pave the way for "full normalization with the Zionists."

ISRAELI REVELATIONS ON POW'S KILLING DISCUSSED

Page 3 contains three features on Israeli revelations that the Israeli forces killed hundreds of Egyptian POW's in the 1956 and 1967 wars:

—In an approximately 1,800-word report, Yusuf Sa'd cites some legal experts and a university professor as saying that the killing of POW's is a violation of the Geneva Convention and that the perpetrators must be brought to court. They assail Israel and say its "crime" shows its "ugly face" and its disrespect for every international law. One of the interviewees also criticizes the Egyptian Government for "not giving its sons adequate attention."

—A 1,200-word article by Huda Makkawi explains the Geneva Convention, which bans the killing or torture of POW's. The writer says the Israeli Army took revenge for its losses by killing POW's in violation of international conventions.

—A 1,300-word article by Dr. Mahjub 'Umar urges the government to escalate pressure on Israel, to collect full information about the missing in action, and to encourage popular moves in this regard. The writer also urges fellow writers to expose Israel's "terrorism" to the world. He also urges the Egyptian leadership to demand that the world deal with the Israeli general who bragged about his involvement in killing POW's in the same way it is dealing with the two Libyans suspected of involvement in the Pan Am jet bombing over Lockerbie, Scotland.

AMBASSADORS, SPEAKERS ADDRESS SEMINAR ON BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

Tariq 'Abd-al-Hamid, in a 2,000-word report on page 2, gives an account of a seminar on the Bosnian war organized by the Journalists Syndicate. The Bosnian and Croat ambassadors in Cairo discuss developments in their countries, with the first praising Egypt's position and the second stressing that there is no secret agreement with the Serbs to partition Bosnia-Herzegovina. Various journalists praise the steadfastness of the Bosnian people and urge support for them.

TERRORISM AGAINST TOURISM DISCOURAGED AS HARMFUL TO CITIZENS

Inside a box occupying the bottom half of its back page, page 12, the paper publishes approximately 1,500 words of what looks like a sponsored advertisement for tourism in Egypt. Under the headline "A Moment Please: Tourism Offers the Chance to Every Citizen To Live a Dignified Life. The State Is Doing the Impossible To Develop Tourism, So Do Not Harm Your Country's Reputation," the article explains the importance of tourism for the well-being of every Egyptian. It reviews the Tourism Ministry's efforts to boost tourism in Egypt and says: "Terrorism, and lack of awareness of tourism, are practices that do not harm the government or even officials at the Tourism Ministry. These things probably do not harm government revenue either. We must think carefully and stress that the loser is ultimately the ordinary citizen, who is striving for an honorable crust for his sons."

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Claims Israel Collaborating With Hamas

TA3008182695 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Yasir 'Arafat claimed today that influential Israeli figures have collaborated with terrorist elements in an attempt to torpedo the peace process. 'Arafat made this announcement during a meeting with the Labor Party's Young Guard leaders, including secretary 'Ofer Deqel, who told us about 'Arafat's remarks:

[Begin Deqel recording] In a dramatic gesture, he pulled out an envelope with Israeli ID's, which — according to him — had been given by people he described as influential Israelis to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists. Approximately 1,500 such documents had been confiscated by the Palestinian police in the course of the investigations that followed the Bet Lid bombing [on 22 January 1995]. [end recording]

Police Detain 3 Reporters Suspected of Hamas Link

TA3108082095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 31 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Last night, Palestinian police detained three Palestinian journalists who reside in Gaza and work for AL-NAHAR. They are suspected

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of activity in behalf of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the three are Fa'id Abu-Shamallah, Mustafa Sawwaf, and Tahir al-Nun.

Editorial: Israel Must 'Pay a Price' for Oslo

TA3008185195 Gaza AL-ISTIQLAL in Arabic 25 Aug 95 p 1

[Editorial: "The Jerusalem Operation"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The latest martyrdom operation has extensively raised the issue of Jerusalem. The most precious and holiest city is subjected the most to abuse. Its fate is not just one of deliberate disregard, rather there is an attempt to throw Jerusalem into the cage of Jewish ownership after Palestinian fingerprints are placed on it by force and forgery. Even Orient House, which does not pose a threat to Israeli security, has become annoying to the Israelis more than it can possibly be. [passage omitted]

As events indicate, the perpetrators of the Jerusalem operation were aware of the popular feeling of coercion and pressure because they saw that the occupation was getting stronger and more entrenched with the continuation of the marathon talks. These talks mean nothing for the Palestinian side except waste of time and humiliation, while at the same time they offer the Israeli side an easy, inexpensive, and permanent occupation. Moreover, the operation came at a time when the Islamic movement in Palestine considers itself in a race with what it regards as liquidation of the Palestinian problem, led by the United States and Israel with international and regional participation. The Islamic movement does not deny its attempt to shuffle the cards within Israel itself as a means to obstruct an unjust settlement, so that it will become difficult for the other parties to shuffle the cards. The Islamic movement is also trying to have Rabin be continuously exposed to blows by steps that it deems to be the best way to resist all the parties in the game. This is especially so since the Islamic movement, which believes that there is an international, Israeli, regional, and local decision to liquidate and eliminate it following a series of international, regional, and local measures to contain and hound it, is trying to affirm that it is able to be present forcefully in the arena of action and will not allow anyone to eliminate or destroy it.

Those who stand behind the Jerusalem operation are also saying that the Israeli side must pay a price, because a Palestinian is forced to pay the price for the crime committed against him. He is forced because of the law of the jungle that governs not only the occupation reality but also the international situation, and because of the prejudice and irrationality that characterize the talks and agreements stemming from this situation. In this operation, as in previous ones, it is not difficult to sense a message that the operation's perpetrators almost announced with the sounds of the explosions; namely, that the Palestinian will not accept to pay the price of the Oslo accord alone but that the Israelis should pay the price. Those who have committed endless massacres against Palestinians and who under cover of Oslo have killed Mahmud al- Khawaja, Kamal Kahil, Hani 'Abid, and others cannot build their settlements calmly and drive Jerusalem's residents from their homes in order to live in them safely and securely.

After the Ramat Gan operation Rabin said: "There will be no talks until the victims are buried." Perhaps he has realized too late that it is still too early to stop burying the victims.

Radio: Lifting of Jericho Closure 'Success' for PA

JN3008154195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1319 GMT 30 Aug 95

[Station commentary: "Success Attracts Success"]

[FBIS Translated Text] With the lifting of the military siege on Jericho after more than seven consecutive days of isolation, one of the most important tests of power between the Palestinian National Authority [Palestinian Authority, PA] and the Israeli Government has ended in success. The former succeeded in scoring two points while the latter was forced to accept failure and absorb its repercussions with the minimum moral losses.

The PA did a good job in skillfully defending its sovereignty. It waged its tactics in this battle in a way that greatly embarrassed its opponent and imposed withdrawal on it, which was the least bitter alternative compared to the alternative of continuing an inevitably losing battle, as expressed by senior Israeli lawyers.

The Israeli Government's illegal request for the handing over of two Hamas members accused of being involved in the Ramat Gan and Ramat Eshkol operations could not withstand the counter argument, which annulled the legitimacy of this request in view of agreements signed by the PLO and the Israeli Government in Cairo. This counter argument was that such a request was impermissible as long as those wanted did not directly perpetrate these operations in Israeli areas. Indeed, the accusation against them was clear. They were accused of carrying out acts that violate the law in the PA areas. Moreover, the PA put them on trial and issued a verdict against them.

In other words, the PA performed its legal duty as an authority, which enforces the law on its areas. Hence, it invalidated Israel's pretexts and stripped them of any

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legal bases which supported its request, thus registering a very important precedent. This request was illegal, especially when it was related to such conflicts that are surely bound to be repeated.

According to the Palestinian national viewpoint, the issue is organically linked to the level of Palestinian sovereignty over its own areas and the people living in them and to how prestigious this sovereignty is in the eyes of the Palestinian people rather than the eyes of Yitzhaq Rabin and his legal advisers.

The second point scored by the PA was the Palestinian decision to resist the war of isolation and military siege imposed on the entire PA areas, on the territories, in general, and on Jericho, in particular.

Through its policy of isolation and the resulting harm to thousands of citizens in Jericho, Israel aimed at forcing the PA to resort to achieving its objectives through violent and direct methods of pressure after it failed to achieve them through legal and political methods.

In light of this, success attracts success. Last week's battle has borne fruit. First, it proved that resisting Israeli pressures is possible and second, that through steadfastness, perseverance, and political wisdom, these Israeli pressures will fail.

U.S., Japan Reported To Give $200 Million in Aid

JN3108062595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0500 GMT 31 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to Palestinian sources in the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, the Palestinian National Authority has received $100 million from the United States, and a $100 million from Japan. The sources added that this aid will not be paid in cash, but in the form of projects.

'Arafat Confers With Brazilian Foreign Minister

JN3008183095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 30 Aug 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat met with Brazilian Foreign Minister Luiz Felipe Lampreia at the Presidency in Gaza this afternoon.

The two sides discussed bilateral ties and cooperation. President 'Arafat thanked the Brazilian minister for the aid his country extends to the Palestinian people. He also commended Brazilian efforts to advance the peace process so that peace will prevail in the land of peace, Palestine.

President 'Arafat added: We welcome a dear guest from a friendly country on this Palestinian soil. President 'Arafat noted that the Brazilian Government and people support the Palestinian people and their cause.

For his part, the Brazilian foreign minister said he discussed with the president bilateral ties and the friendship between the Palestinian and Brazilian peoples and ways of enhancing it. The discussion also covered the aid which Brazil could extend to the Palestinian people in the economic and agricultural spheres, as well as enhancing cooperation between the two peoples. The Brazilian official said 'Arafat accepted his invitation to visit Brazil, saying that 'Arafat will visit Brazil when he visits Latin America in October.

President 'Arafat held a luncheon in the honor of the guest. Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation, and Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, minister of finance, attended the meeting.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Quray': No PA Operations in Israel, Jerusalem

TA3008165895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Palestinian Authority [PA] agreed not to operate inside Israeli territory, including Jerusalem and Orient House. There is, however, a crisis over the negotiations on electricity. David Ze'ev has details:

[Ze'ev] The office of Police Minister Moshe Shahal says chief Palestinian negotiator Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'] declared that the PA is to operate only in the areas under its jurisdiction, though there is no specific reference to Jerusalem in the statement.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1505 GMT on 30 August carries a report by Yehudit Zilberstein, who states that "at the conclusion of their talks today," "Abu-'Ala' advised Minister Shahal that the PA will not operate inside Israel, particularly not in Jerusalem. He asserted that the pledge will be endorsed by Yasir 'Arafat." Zilberstein cites Shahal as saying, however, that "there is no intention for the time being to revoke the closing orders served to Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem."]

At the Elat talks today, the Palestinians demanded the release of all female prisoners, but Minister Shahal said he could not make a decision, because it must be brought to the Israeli ministerial committee on the release of Palestinian prisoners, which, the police minister said, is to meet during the course of the week.

The two sides did agree to set up a telephone hot line between the heads of the two police forces. They also agreed to cooperate on criminal matters.

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In all, it was a far more successful day for Police Minister Shahal in Elat today than for Energy Minister Gonen Segev yesterday there. Gas and oil has already been handed over to the Palestinians, but the issue of electricity has reached a crisis. Minister Segev explains why:

[Begin recording] [Segev] The problem with electricity is the grid. I said to the Palestinians that they can operate the grid in cooperation with us, but they cannot have the ownership on the high voltage grid — that is the 161-kw grid. I have to say it again here that Israel wants to have the ownership on the high- voltage grid, but wants to go into a full cooperation on all the other parts of the electricity system in Judaea and Samaria.

[Ze'ev] Why must Israel have ownership of the high-voltage grid?

[Segev] Because we are dealing with Israeli electricity, and the 161-kw grid is part of the power plant, although it is in the area. And let's say, if they want to make good maintenance to it, they can make feedback problems to the power station, and even make a disaster to our power plant in Israel. [end recording]

The energy minister says either he or Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will have to meet with Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to resolve the issue.

Beilin, al-Husayni Exchange Views on Peace Process

TA3008180195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The moment of truth in relations between the Israeli and Palestinian people is very, very close. So says Economy and Planning Minister Yosi Beilin, one of the architects of the Oslo agreement. Beilin made the statement in a roundtable discussion today with Palestinian official Faysal al-Husayni. For his part, al-Husayni called upon the Israeli Government to ignore those who oppose the peace process. Al-Husayni also expressed regret that the Israeli Government sometimes makes pronouncements that are misunderstood by the Palestinian public. But, Minister Beilin responded, this happens on both sides.

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] [al-Husayni] I believe the only way to solve the problem is to accept that Jerusalem is one city, but in this city there is rights for two peoples. I believe that we can have a lot of ways and scenarios, but the main thing that we must be sure is that there will not be peace in this area, and others will not believe that there is peace in this area, if the people in this area will not feel that each one has the same rights in this city like the other. So, if you ask me what is the solution: one open city with two capitals.

[Beilin] The city of Jerusalem will be never redivided. We are saying that Jerusalem, which was united immediately after the Six-Day War, should remain under Israeli sovereignty as one city, as the only capital, and as the capital of Israel, of course. But even if we do not compromise on this component that I described, it does not mean that we suggest to ignore the 160,000 Palestinians who live in Jerusalem, who have their rights there, and who will remain in Jerusalem whatever the solution is. [end recording]

The roundtable was part of the international conference on Jerusalem organized by the St. Egidio Society.

Israeli Decision To Defer Redeployment Talks Reported

TA3108102695 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 31 Aug 95 pp 1, 2

[Report by Hagay Huberman]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The top Israeli political echelons have decided to put off the negotiations with the PLO on the details of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment and to try to reach agreements on other issues first because they fear that discussing the redeployment will immediately create a crisis in the talks.

Political sources disclosed this to HATZOFE. According to the sources, Israel still hopes to sign the agreement in December; the IDF has been ordered to prepare to withdraw from the main cities in January; and elections to the Palestinian Authority council are scheduled for February, if a date can be found that does not conflict with the Ramadan fast (which starts on 22 January).

Israeli political echelons have recently considered the possibility of signing a partial agreement with the PLO that will address only the IDF withdrawal from the six main cities to allow for the autonomy elections and proposed that the agreement on the full redeployment be deferred until after the Knesset elections, should the parties fail to overcome the serious disagreements between them within a reasonable period. Interior Minister Ehud Baraq hinted at this possibility when he appeared before the Chief Rabbinate Council approximately two weeks ago.

According to the political sources, a discussion of the redeployment might completely disrupt the aforementioned schedule. Therefore, Israel has reverted to its customary method of putting off a discussion of the "serious obstacles" until the final stage of the negotiations in an attempt to settle the simpler problems first, just as it has done throughout the negotiations with the PLO (putting off the issues of Jerusalem, settlements, refugees, and

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others until the permanent arrangement). In this case as well, the Israeli negotiators — primarily the Foreign Ministry — are trying to delay the discussion of the redeployment until after agreements are signed on issues such as water (the "breakthrough" attained last week on this has, in fact, left most of the issues unresolved and subject to negotiations in Cairo), electricity, release of prisoners, and more. The top Israeli echelons hope that achievements scored with regard to these issues will substantially reduce the risk of a crisis erupting the minute the redeployment negotiations start.

Military sources have disclosed that on the basis of the experience gained from the Gaza-Jericho agreement, they believe it to be very probable that the PLO will reject Israel's position on the redeployment the minute it learns the specifics. The army officers said that Palestinian police commanders, in discussions with the IDF, often stated that they would "tear up the Cairo agreement" if they could, because it ultimately secured the basic security conditions of the Qatif Bloc settlements as demanded by the defense establishment. The Israeli echelons said that once the Palestinians are presented with the Israeli position, they will react in a similar manner. Defense establishment sources told HATZOFE that the Israeli position meets the demands raised by defense echelons in the internal discussions held prior to the talks with the Palestinians: protection of the settlement blocs, and control of the main routes and what the senior officers termed "life lines" (essential roads, water pipes, electricity grids, telephone lines, etc.) [passage omitted]

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Algeria

Government Plans To Control Bomb Ingredients

LD3008135095 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mounia Daoudi reports on violence in Algeria:

[Daoudi] Two women and three children were killed on Monday [28 August] night in the west of the country, near Chlef. A bomb had been planted in their house.

Moreover, security forces carried out a combing operation in Kabylie at the beginning of this week. According to the daily LIBERTE, seven Islamists are believed to have been killed.

[Announcer] Algeria is trying to fight against homemade bombs:

[Daoudi] Very severe measures have just been decided concerning the manufacture or the possession of ammonium nitrate, propane cans, and industrial gas. All these products have recently been used quite a lot in the manufacture of explosives.

Daily Reports One of GIA's Main Leaders Killed

LD3108101695 Paris LCI Television in French 0900 GMT 31 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mohamed Said, one of the main leaders of the Armed Islamic Group, the GIA, was reportedly killed in a search operation over the last few days in his native Kabylie.

This is what the Algerian daily LA TRIBUNE reported this morning.

Security Official Killed in Car Bombing

LD3108101495 Paris LCI Television in French 0900 GMT 31 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] There has been another car bomb attack in Algeria. One person was killed and 32 injured in Boufarik, 25 km south of Algiers. The attack targeted the house of the victim, a man responsible for security in the town of Boufarik.

Zeroual Receives Election Working Group

LD3008151995 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Liamine Zeroual this morning at the presidency office received members of the working group entrusted with preparing the work and organization mechanism for the independent national commission which will be in charge of following up and monitoring the presidential elections. [passage omitted]

Dalila Bouhana has this report:

[Bouhana] [passage omitted] The working group consists of six political parties and national organizations, as well as three national figures. Those present were: Mahfoud Nahnah for the Hamas Movement; Nourreddine Boukrouh for the Algerian Renewal Party; Ahmed Khelil, leader of the Algerian Liberal Party; Abdelkader Merbah for the Algerian Movement for Justice and Development; a representative of the National Party for Solidarity and Development; and delegations from the Organization of Children of War Veterans, the General Union of Algerian Workers, the National Union of Algerian Farmers, the National Organization of Martyrs' Children and its coordination committees, and the National Federation of Children of War Veterans. The three national figures were Belaid Abdesselam, Redha Malek, and Ahmed Bencherif.

It is worth recalling that this working group consists of representatives of the presidency and the bodies taking part in the consultations on setting up the independent commission for monitoring the elections. The group started its meetings as scheduled on 21 August 95 and ended proceedings at the end of last week.

Zeroual Discusses Independent National Commission

LD3008214395 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A meeting was held at the Presidency today between President Liamine Zeroual and the working group preparing the work for the independent national commission. [passage omitted]

The meeting focused on the findings of the group which included representatives from all above sides and which was entrusted with the preparation of a short list of the all proposals that had been put forward on the formation, the competencies and the organization of the independent national commission for following-up the presidential elections.

The findings of the group, which will henceforth constitute the platform for the formation, the competencies and the organization of the independent national commission for following-up the presidential elections, were unanimously adopted at the meeting.

On this occasion, it was also unanimously agreed that the commission will be installed within the next few days.

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Following the debate, the head of state made a brief statement in which he pointed out that the meeting, which was in itself an important one, had a great significance. Adding that the importance of such a meeting was its subject-matter, i.e. the free and fair choice of the Algerian people.

The head of state went on to say: As I have repeatedly asserted, the Algerian people are the main victims of the national crisis in all its aspects. Therefore, it is important that the people should make their choice through the elections on how to resolve the national crisis. Naturally, it is also fair that our people should be allowed to make a free and a democratic choice.

As everyone can see, our people are preparing earnestly for the date of the elections and that the state is, at the same time, tirelessly preparing for the holding of this momentous referendum.

The independent national commission, which you have just set up, is the jewel crowning the eagerness of the nation and all its strata, from which you have been drawn, for such an election.

The state, which is in the service of the Algerian people and accountable to it as far as the holding of a free, fair, and abiding elections are concerned, has been exerting efforts to organize such elections, the head of state added.

Zeroual added: In addition to its importance, this meeting has actually a symbolic significance.

The head of state said: Actually, your gathering here is a demonstration that politicians of different generations and different social and political background can meet around one table; a diversity which can enrich pluralism in our country.

Our gathering here is also categorical denial to all those who have been trying — here and there — to give a false image of the impotence of the Algerian democratic pluralism.

Our gathering here is also an active demonstration that difference in viewpoints should not jeopardize the national interest that should always be the common denominator between all of us.

Thus, this meeting has given a fresh and tangible result, i.e. the affirmation of the hope of Algerian nationalists that the future of democratic Algeria lies in the respect of our true national values and of a democratic and republic system which was chosen by Algeria since 1954, he affirmed.

Zeroual concluded his statement saying: Allow me to thank you in the name of our nation for your committed services to Algeria alone.

The head of state also expressed his best wishes that the independent national commission for following up the presidential elections will be successful in its tasks. [passage omitted]

Youth Leader Declares Candidacy in Elections

LD3008154895 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Speaking at the Algiers Hotel in the capital today, Mr. Djamoui Djoudi has declared his intention to run in the presidential elections. He is 44 years old and has a university degree in economics. Mr. Djoudi is head of the national organization for assisting and informing youth and a member of the Transitional National Council.

Egypt

Mubarak Comments on POW's, Iraqi Defectors

TA3008161395 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 29 Aug 95 pp 2, 3

[Report on interview with President Husni Mubarak by correspondent 'Oded Granot in Alexandria; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has called on Israel to launch an investigation into the affair of the killing of Egyptian POW's in order to calm the upset Egyptian public and to avoid an unnecessary crisis between the two countries.

"Why are you waiting there in Israel? After all, we want to salvage the situation. We do not want any problems between us," Mubarak said in an interview to MA'ARIV held in his summer residence in Alexandria.

Mubarak claimed that Egypt was taken totally by surprise by the reports in Israel about the killing of Egyptian POW's and admitted that his government had found itself under heavy public pressure. "The press has blown it up, and now we have four articles written on this issue daily. We are under attack and criticism, and people ask us why we keep silent," the Egyptian president said.

Mubarak said for the first time that in order to help put out the fire, he is willing to investigate every case or piece of evidence regarding harm or abuse of Israeli POW's in Egypt. "If we are given the proof, we will investigate. If it comes to court, the culprits will be punished."

The Egyptian president promised that the recent publications will have no effect on Egypt's willingness to allow the continuation of searches for the bodies of IDF

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[Israel Defense Forces] MIA's from the Yom Kippur War. "We have not and will not stop this humanitarian act," Mubarak said.

Mubarak spoke candidly for over two hours about relations with Israel and the peace process with the Syrians and the Palestinians. He highly praised Rabin and Peres for persisting in the negotiations with the Palestinians "despite the great domestic difficulties," and stated that the Likud too does not have a "magic wand" with which to end Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] terrorism. Even if Likud does come to power, it would not be able to stop the peace process, but he hopes peace would be attained before this happens.

Mubarak admitted that the defection of Iraqi General Husayn Kamil to Jordan is still a mystery to him. According to him, he cannot confirm or deny the Iraqi opposition claim that Saddam has Scud missiles and chemical and biological weapons. "Such weapons could be destructive for us all here," Mubarak said.

Surprisingly, Mubarak promised that he will talk to Syrian President al-Asad about the bad impression in Israel regarding the fact that al-Quds Radio operates from Damascus, broadcasting Hamas and Islamic Jihad messages. "Are you certain they are broadcasting from Damascus?," Mubarak asked, adding: "I will bring it up with him."

Following are some of the main points of the interview, the full version of which will be published in MA'ARIV's coming SHABAT supplement [on 1 September]:

— "Relations between us are good, but there is always some new problem. For example, you are now trying to create a special problem by attempting to force countries to take part in the festivities of the 3,000th anniversary of Jerusalem. Did we not agree that the issue of Jerusalem would be left for the final stage? Why, then, do you keep declaring it is your eternal capital?"

— "We will again raise the issue of Israeli nuclear weapons once the peace process is completed. We do not want to create more problems at this time."

— "Please explain to me — what is this business with the new Middle East? People here ask themselves whether you wish to seize the entire region and devour us all. All the countries are beginning to be afraid of you."

— "You are the reason for the slowdown in the normalization with the Arab countries. You are not in Europe. Here we have a different mentality and thinking. Why are you in such a hurry? Wait a year or two. You will reach your destination if you walk slowly; if you run, you will always fall."

— "There is an Arab country that I will not name; your people met its foreign minister. The leader of this country found out that there is opposition there to tightening the relations with Israel."

— "You accused us of working behind your backs to prevent the resumption of ties between you and African countries. After all, I have relations with you, and I would give no one advice on what to do."

— "The Syrians will never agree to an Israeli early-warning station on the Golan. We did not agreed to it in Egypt as well. In the age of technology and satellites, early warning stations are almost worthless."

— "The defection of the Iraqi general surprised us. Have Saddam's daughters decided to abandon their father and leave Iraq? The entire matter is not yet clear to me."

— "I offered Saddam refuge because I wanted to prevent a bloodbath in Iraq. It does not mean that I like his methods. If he does not want to come, we will not force him. All we want is to ease the suffering of the Iraqi people."

— "Peace will continue after Mubarak as well. The Egyptian people will make sure that peace continues. We have no more problems with Israel. We got back our lands, and the problems are solved. There is not a single person here who considers war, and there is not a single person who is willing to forsake the advantages peace and development have brought us."

Paper: Israeli Envoy Involved in POW's Killings

NC3108112795 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
29 Aug 95 pp 1, 8

[Report by Mahmud Bakri]

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-SHA'B has learned that Israeli Ambassador in Cairo David Sultan took part in the massacre of Egyptian POW's during the 1956 and 1967 wars, when he was an officer in the Israeli military paratroopers unit. He carried out carnage en masse, victimizing over 100 Egyptian POW's in the Taba area. The military paratroopers unit he commanded, in cooperation with other units, seized 100 Egyptian POW's. Although he received a request from his government to transport the POW's to an Israeli camp near Haifa to use them to pressure the Egyptian Government, Sultan did not respond to his government's request. He carried out a series of arbitrary measures against the POW's to obtain from them as much information about the Egyptian Army as he could.

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Sultan began his criminal acts by interrogating six Egyptian officers ranging in rank from lieutenant to major. He asked them to submit a detailed picture of all Egyptian military posts in Sinai and the equipment at these posts, as well as the number of personnel in each unit and the types of planning the Egyptian commanders adopt in their military movements. He also requested information on the names of the military commanders concerned with planning and the names of foreign military experts in the Egyptian Army, the roles assigned them, and the general structure of the Egyptian forces.

Sultan told the Egyptian POW's that obtaining this information would prompt him to release them, after alleging that the Israeli army staff command knew nothing about them. He said that, therefore, their release would be a personal initiative. But the POW's refused to offer any information. He began his punishment by denying them food and water for 48 hours. He then ordered them to take off their uniforms within the sight and hearing of other Egyptian POW's. He ordered them to dig their own graves with their bare hands. But the POW's refused his orders. He then ordered his soldiers to tie the POW's naked and to kill them. Six POW's were massacred. Afterward the rest of the 100 POW's were interrogated and he warned them against not giving the correct information. He would give each one a 12-hour deadline after which he would give orders to kill anyone who refused to give information. Over three days, Sultan killed the 100 POW's and then notified his commanders that he had killed the POW's and buried them in mass graves in Taba. His commanders approved of what he did and the Israeli staff command awarded him a medal. In addition to that massacre, the executioner Israeli ambassador took part in numerous other massacres against Egyptian POW's. He would deprive them of water and keep them all day in the desert until they died of thirst. His utter enmity and hatred of Egyptians was one reason he was chosen as ambassador of the Zionist entity in Cairo.

Column Calls Envoy a 'Pig'

NC3008204495 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 25 Aug 95 p 12

[From the "Frank Word" column by Mahmud Bakri: "Punishment of the Lowly"]

[FBIS Translated Text] What is an appropriate reply to the despicable and abominable crimes that the apes and pigs from the sons of Zion committed against our prisoners in the various wars?

Shall we content ourselves with shedding tears, tearing our cloths, expressing sorrow for the victims, and turning the page of the past with its good and bad memories?

By God, no. That would be tantamount to capitulation. Disregarding blood is impossible. Keeping quiet about the murderers means we accept submissiveness and servility. It would be better for us to die than to live in such humiliation.

The blood of our martyred prisoners are entrusted to the conscience of every patriot and a responsibility on the shoulders of every Egyptian. We will justify this trust until we exact revenge on the murderers and butchers.

God wanted the members the Zion clan to expose themselves through their maneuvering in advance of their elections. They have started to reveal their crimes. Suddenly, everyone is involved (Rabin, Etan, and Ben-Eli'ezer). All are butchers, criminals, and slaughterers.

What has been revealed so far is not new to us. We realize that this race has no principle or creed. That is why we are absolutely opposed to making peace with them on any false pretense. The calamity lies in those who are crawling on their knees after an elusive peace. They have sold out their causes, abandoned the struggle, and become mouthpieces for the Zionists and political hucksters.

The Egyptian Government—if it has an iota of loyalty to our chaste prisoners—must immediately expel the pig who runs the embassy of the dirty enemy in the heart of Cairo. It must break relations with these criminals and stop hosting the grandsons of dogs. It must ask Interpol to arrest Rabin and his gang. It must ask the United Nations—if the latter has any legitimacy left—to expel this alien entity from the UN and to try these dogs as war criminals. It must mobilize all the sons of the nation to take revenge on the murderers and bloodsuckers.

The whole nation is called upon to answer this cowardly and despicable act. We must tell our sons at home and our pupils in school the stories of our prisoners and what the criminals did to them. We must implant in them the spirit of revenge from now on. These abominable crimes must not pass without punishment as a deterrent. Revenge never dies, even after 1,000 years.

We ignore facts when we deal with this gang as human beings. They are nothing but animals who like to kill and who live by sucking blood.

Day and night the rabbis of Israel teach their corrupt offspring how to eliminate and exterminate the Arabs and Muslims, because the legitimacy of their existence is based on our eradication. Should we not also consider that the legitimacy of our existence requires us to eradicate them? This is the correct logic. Let us begin

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with Rabin, Peres, Shamir, and all the lowly. Let us prepare from this day on for the great day of reckoning. May God have mercy on our prisoners. May He tear our enemies apart and exact vengeance on them. God is capable of everything.

Minister Views Assembly Elections, Other Issues

NC3008190595 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 26 Aug 95 p 13

[Interview with Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi by Ahmad Musa; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Musa] We started the interview with what will be the focus of events for the next two and a half months, the People's Assembly elections. I asked the minister of interior: We need clarification of the Ministry's role in the election process.

[Al-Alfi] The role of the security organs is to preserve law and order. We are responsible for providing headquarters for the committees and organizing the process of expressing one's opinion so that no incidents take place which might disturb the security situation. In order to avert any disturbances or violations, every voter has to cast his vote readily, quickly, safely, and securely. The elections' general administration will define the committees which the judiciary will fully supervise. The police will not interfere whatsoever. My instructions are very firm. During ongoing meetings with the security officials, I ask them to merely perform their duties and not to interfere in the interest of one candidate against another. I ask them to treat all sides equally. Election campaigns and congresses will be applied equally to all sides and there will be no preferences or exceptions made to anyone party over another.

[Musa] Can you offer any guarantees for your neutrality?

[Al-Alfi] I confirm that the security department is committed to applying those measures that guarantee the honesty of elections. We have nothing to do with the committees or the voting process. All organization of the election process takes place away from the eyes of the police and under the supervision of the law. Only a small amount of time has gone by since the Consultative Council elections and my men did not violate any of the procedures then. We did not prevent anyone from casting their vote. The general committees take on the task of opening the ballot boxes and counting the votes in the presence of judges and representatives of the candidates. The process of registering the voters has been finalized. We have now arranged to prepare the lists of voters in order to avert any errors. The counting process will be by hand in front of the representatives of the candidates.

[Musa] Mr. minister, do you have any reservations regarding the announcement by the dissolved Muslim Brotherhood on its intention to nominate some of its members who are being held in prison?

[Al-Alfi] We are a state of institutions and we adhere to the constitution and the law. The elections are being called for by legally recognized political parties. What is called the Muslim Brotherhood does not exist. A law was issued to dissolve this group, thus their existence is illegal. Their practice of any political right takes place through the legal parties. Therefore, any candidate can nominate himself for the 13 legal parties only, or as an independent, and this last category is open to all.

[Musa] This brings us to allegations by the dissolved group regarding the fact that the security organs have resorted to arresting a number of its cadres to prevent them from running in the elections. How true are these accusations? And has the hour of confrontation with the Brotherhood finally arrived?

[Al-Alfi] These are all false accusations with no basis. All the steps and measures we took before arresting members of the dissolved group took place with the knowledge of the State Security Prosecution. While carrying out their security strikes, the police never undertook any unilateral decisions and have not used the emergency law.

All that happened was that there is a group that is violating the law. There is proof and evidence condemning these people. After the facts were presented before the prosecution, the latter was given the green light to arrest some members of this group and they were put in prison. The legal side investigated and inspected the things we seized along with the members and confirmed the correctness of our measures. How can it be said that the security forces are applying the emergency law to remand these people in order to prevent them from running in the elections.

It is clear that all this is baseless talk. There isn't a single detainee among these people. They are all in prison because of decisions by the prosecution and the courts. We will be confronting all those who violate the law and applying the law under all circumstances. The state has mapped out the way for all those who want to express their opinion and principles in a legitimate way and in accordance with the constitution. Any action outside the legal framework will be confronted strictly and firmly.

[Musa] Are you monitoring the MB's moves? We would like you to specify their actual role in supporting and backing terrorist elements and their links with foreign elements.

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[Al-Alfi] Any illegal move is always monitored by the security apparatus. We leave nothing to chance. It has been proven that the elements of the dissolved MB are involved in backing and supporting terrorism. The prosecution's interrogation of detained suspects have revealed this. Investigations disclosed many important things and substantiated evidence irrefutably. It is in the public interest not to talk about this matter until the investigation is concluded and a document is issued specifying everything and pointing out contacts between the MB and foreign elements that are working to undermine Egypt's security.

[Musa] Everyone in Egypt now feels that we have overcome the crisis of terrorism and its crimes. The prevalence of peace is very clear all around Egypt. We would like the interior minister to reassure the citizens and our guests and explain the security situation at present.

[Al-Alfi] Thank God; it was all with the help of God. The wave of terrorism is undoubtedly subsiding considerably. The crimes that occurred have altered citizens' behavior; they are now fully conscious of the danger posed by this misled group. This has prompted them to forthrightly provide the security apparatus with information that has helped a lot during the confrontation. Many guests and foreign officials visiting Egypt recently have admired and praised our accomplishments in that connection. They acknowledged that they were able to travel around Cairo without fear, contrary to what they find in some advanced states.

I appeal to the sons of the homeland to continue to stand up to those saboteurs who have distorted the image of Egypt and Islam. We achieved these standards of performance after strenuous efforts involving all the security sectors. We relied on new administrative methods and took a scientific approach using modern technology. We have also relied on tough training and have sent contingents abroad to receive the most sophisticated training. We compiled a major data base on this activity. We handled the criminals very firmly and exposed them in order to protect our religion and our homeland. [passage omitted]

[Musa] This leads us to another question: Have you smashed the complete organization with all its instruments, weapons, elements, and instructions? This has not been revealed before.

[Al-Alfi] We certainly succeeded in foiling dozens of terrorist operations and apprehended the groups assigned to carrying out those crimes. If these crimes had been carried out, we would have suffered grave losses. We caught them all, with all their equipment, documents, and those who issued the orders. We have a case still under investigation that has not been publicized. The defendants come from within this country and from abroad. Regrettably, many living here had traveled abroad in the past, received training, and met with fugitive leaders. Those leaders took them to camps and trained them in the use of explosives, assassination, and how to use various types of weapons; and then they infiltrated them back into Egypt. We arrested them before they carried out their operations, including the five who came from Sudan.

Terrorists' confessions have revealed that their training methods have developed. They now use modern methods in making explosives, assembling explosive charges, and detonating them by remote control. But we know about all that. We have thoroughly penetrated their ranks. We are also developing and modernizing our equipment. Our troops are receiving strenuous training every day to be prepared for any contingency.

[Musa] Can you tell us about the terrorists' sources of financing, whether they are organizations or individuals, and the amounts the security apparatus seized?

[Al-Alfi] There is substantial financing for these criminal groups, from organizations and individuals alike. They are all foreign. We have seized checks and cash and are monitoring financial transfers. The matter is currently being studied by the judiciary (he refused to disclose the details of investigations for security reasons and to protect public interests and the efforts the competent authorities are making in this connection).

[Musa] You talked about diplomatic moves to extradite wanted persons. Have your contacts had positive results? And, how many persons did Egypt receive from fraternal and friendly states recently?

[Al-Alfi] Yes, we have begun contacts with several foreign countries. There is full cooperation with the Foreign Ministry in this effort to conclude security agreements with different countries. Now that the wave of terrorism has extended to European states, the United States, and Japan, the world has to cooperate to face up to that hazard. Countries have to exchange information and security delegations. They should cooperate by extraditing criminals and refraining from giving them political asylum, in accordance with the resolution of the international conference on the prevention of crime. We have signed several bilateral extradition agreements, but this is being kept secret to safeguard the common interests of the various states. Dozens of wanted persons have been handed over to us.

[Musa] What about the states that have granted asylum to some terrorists? Have we contacted them to extradite

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the convicted persons who reside there? And how many are they?

[Al-Alfi] There are constant contacts with these states in particular. It is clear that some states have changed their stances after they saw terrorist crimes occurring in Europe and the United States. Some states have political refugees who have been sentenced for terrorist crimes. Some of these terrorists were sentenced to death twice (he means terrorist Mustafa Hamzah).

It is really astonishing that these states grant asylum to murderers. Their crimes targeted civilians, women, children, as well as men. There are constant attempts to secure these wanted persons, whose escape continues to pose a danger. They collect money and send instructions to their associates. They are striving to encourage terrorists from everywhere to commit crimes inside Egypt.

The security apparatus has a complete chart of the moves of terrorist elements and their leaders abroad. There is coordination with the various concerned authorities to monitor our southern border, which is the location where people are pushed by Sudan to infiltrate Egypt. There are active measures to prevent infiltration from abroad. We apprehended those who come across the border before they can carry out their orders.

[Musa] What is the Interior Ministry's assessment of the limited operations going on in al- Minya; and, are these crimes being committed at the individual level or are there fugitive terrorists involved?

[Al-Alfi] Thank God, there is a bit difference between the past and the present in Upper Egypt in general, and in al-Minya in particular. There are some fugitive elements awaiting a chance to commit crimes and prove that they exist. This is clear from their conduct. In Upper Egypt there are only individuals; there are no big organizations. We have uncovered all the organizations; and the citizens have provided effective help in this context. [passage omitted]

[Musa] Some human rights organizations accuse your officers of torturing prisoners.

[Al-Alfi] (He pauses for a while and then says) Unfortunately, these organizations obtain their information from offenders, weirdos, and people who have a vested interest. Many lies are made about the security apparatus. We are careful to safeguard human rights and we have a special bureau to receive complaints. The public prosecutor investigates these complaints. When someone goes too far, using cruel methods, I have no option but to refer him to trial without hesitation. We have many ways things we can do whenever such excesses are proven. But some people are campaigning to smear the image of the security apparatus and frustrate its personnel.

Some of these organizations are illegal and their activity is being monitored by the security apparatus. Legal measures are usually taken against them when they break the law. The most practical response to these organizations is to point out that 52 political prisoners obtained grades of over 70 percent in the general secondary school examination this year. One of them got 93 percent, another 92 percent, and over 10 others made grades of over 82 percent. How did they get such high grades? It is certain that the prison sector provides care and services to all inmates without discrimination. (The interior minister denied that people are arrested on mere suspicion and pointed out that arrests are made after obtaining evidence that they are members of certain organizations. He added that all arrest procedures are followed and that arrests require a warrant from the general prosecutor). [passage omitted]

[Musa] You have launched a major security operation to check licensed firearms and seize unlicensed ones. Are there any particular reasons behind these new measures?

[Al-Alfi] There are preconditions that must be met for possessing and carrying firearms. Statistics show that thousands of crimes and unintentional killings take place by the use of firearms. When we began examining the files, we discovered that the process [for issuing firearms licenses] is disorganized. I ordered that all licenses and the reasons for the issuance of these licenses be re-examined. No defendant or suspect should carry firearms. I assure you that our action is unrelated to the People's Assembly elections. We began this operation two years ago. Out of 214,000 licenses, there were 18,327 people who had licenses to carry arms just for the purpose of showing off. Naturally, I canceled these licenses.

Regrettably, some licenses for semiautomatic weapons were issued in the past. About 200 persons, comprised of People's Assembly members, Consultative Council members, and other public figures obtained such licenses. I canceled all these licenses because the law forbids such weapons.

I have taken weapons from everybody. I began with officials from my ministry. I will not allow any violations. I will not permit violations of the law, which must be applied to everyone, everywhere, and without exception. No one, including the Interior Minister, has the right to carry a semiautomatic weapon as long he has bodyguards. Whoever is fears for his safety can have bodyguards. I am applying the law and rectifying the situation in the interest of the homeland. I will prosecute those who carry unlicensed weapons. As of Wednesday

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[23 August], we had seized 27,574 weapons, including 2,509 automatic and semiautomatic rifles, 283 machine guns, 4,887 revolvers, and the remainder are various rifles. The security campaigns to seize unlicensed weapons are continuing.

[Musa] Corruption cases have disappeared. Why? Are there none?

[Al-Alfi] There are corruption and bribery cases. I have asked the Public Funds Investigation Department not to publicize them before we get a conviction, because such cases bring disgrace to the defendant and his family. There are enormous efforts being made to combat corruption, which is one of the ways of fighting terrorism. I do not discriminate against anyone.

The opposition newspaper AL-SHA'B made up an incident in which it claimed we smuggled Karim Ghali out of the country. It has been proved that this newspaper lied. The defendant, who is underage, is in custody. We do not know why they fabricate many things about which we know nothing.

Radio Assails 'International Plot' Against Bosnia

NC3008152195 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 30 Aug 95

[Commentary by 'Atif Umar: "Is the Plot To Carve Up Bosnia Nearing Its End?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] After three years of fierce assaults by the Serbian forces against the Bosnian Muslims in the biggest ethnic cleansing operation of the 20th century, the United Nations has finally moved. UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali has issued instructions to the UN forces commanders in Bosnia to investigate Monday's [28 August] artillery attack on the center of Sarajevo, in which 122 Bosnians were killed or wounded. Bosnian people still live in their capital, and the UN forces have declared that they are responsible for protecting Sarajevo and other safe areas.

What happened recently in the Srebrenica, Gorazde, and Zepa enclaves has exposed the big lie of "safe havens." The UN Secretary General's orders to his forces in Bosnia to investigate the recent Serb attack on Sarjevo come on the heels of his repeated statements on the failure of the United Nations to do its duty because of its money problems. They also come on the heels of the U.S. Administration's statements that it will not intervene directly to resolve European differences and conflicts that do not threaten U.S. security and are not linked to vital U.S. interests.

If we link all these factors, we can conclude that the capture of Sarajevo and other so-called safe havens in Bosnia is a matter of time now that the international plot has intensified and the West and East have agreed to root out this people from Europe. They have labelled Islam as backward and reactionary and accused it of being the cause of terrorism in Europe even though the perpetrators of recent events in the United States, China, and Japan were not linked to Islam either directly or indirectly.

But the big international plot and the manipulated world media have succeeded in pinning all the crimes of terrorism and violence on Islam and the Muslims, based on what is happening in Afghanistan, Sudan, Somalia, Iran, Algeria, and Iraq.

Despite the bitter events in Bosnia, brought about by the vacillation of the major powers in shouldering their duty of safeguarding this people— who merely demand their legitimate right to live on their territory under UN principles—and despite sloganeering about so-called human rights, despite all this, the Arab and Islamic worlds continue to hold that this issue must be resolved through negotiations among the concerned parties under effective UN supervision provided the minimum acceptable rights of the Bosnian people are preserved.

History will record that the Bosnian Muslim people were the first people to pay the price for the end of the cold war and the price of international detente, the parties to which are for the first time confronting a new enemy conjured up from their own imagination. They have agreed to liquidate this people under a fool-proof plan in which the parties play roles scripted in advance. This script provides for supplying the Serb forces with all the tools of death and destruction while giving the Bosnian people only resolutions condemning and denouncing the aggression—coupled with a warning that they will use NATO air power—initiatives, and the dispatch of envoys within the framework of an organized operation to waste time until the maturation of the big international plot to liquidate the Bosnian Muslims. This is happening amid the silent cries in the hearts of the Arab people and in flagrant defiance of all Islamic peoples.

Embassy Objects to Sudanese Remarks on Hala'ib

NC3108113995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1045 GMT 31 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut, 31 Aug (MENA)—The Egyptian Embassy in Lebanon today issued a statement commenting on remarks made by the head of a Sudanese parliamentary delegation after meeting some Lebanese officials yesterday. The statement, which was distributed to the Lebanese media, noted that the Sudanese parliamentarian referred to the so-called

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Hala'ib issue and falsely claimed that the Egyptian forces in that area are occupation troops.

The embassy said that it wishes to clarify again that the Egyptian-Sudanese border is unambiguously marked by the 22d parallel in accordance with the 1889 treaty. It explained that the facilities and assistance extended by the Egyptian authorities to nomadic tribesmen who occasionally cross the border does not mean that the Sudanese regime can impose a fait accompli in the area or alter international law. It added that the Sudanese regime is trying to make provocations and cause trouble by any means whatsoever and noted that the list of anti-Egyptian acts carried out by this regime are too long to repeat in full here.

The embassy said foremost among these anti-Egyptian actions is the export of terrorism to Egypt and other neighboring countries.

The Egyptian Embassy added: Egypt selflessly and patiently backed Sudan's quest for independence in 1956 and despite the Sudanese regime's current negative positions, Egypt affirms its respect for Sudanese territorial integrity, opposes any separatist movements in south Sudan, and stands by the Sudanese people with whom it has indissoluble ties.

A Sudanese parliamentary delegation led by Muhammad Shakir, head of the Foreign Relations Committee in Sudan's Transitional National Council, began a visit to Lebanon yesterday. The delegation held a series of meetings with Lebanese Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri, his deputy Elie al-Firzili, and Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz. The Sudanese delegation head spoke to them about what he described as the situation between Egypt and Sudan, particularly in connection with Halab'ib.

The Sudanese official alleged that the Egyptian forces are occupying Hala'ib and are seeking to drag Sudan toward a military confrontation. He also claimed that the Lebanese officials showed understanding for Sudan's position on this issue and said that they support Sudan in restoring its so-called legitimate rights. Official Lebanese sources have not, however, confirmed these statements.

Sudan

Opposition Names 3 Involved in Attempt on Mubarak

NC3008193095 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 25 Aug 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-AHRAM's Office—Yesterday the Sudanese opposition disclosed substantial information proving the involvement of the ruling Sudanese regime in the sinful assassination attempt against President Husni Mubarak in Addis Ababa on 26 June. According to this information, at least three Sudanese were directly involved in the assassination attempt, and Ethiopia is currently asking Sudan to extradite them for trial.

Mubarak al-Mahdi, secretary general of the opposition Sudanese Democratic National Grouping, said at a news conference in London yesterday that the first of the three Sudanese involved is al-Tayyib Muhammad 'Abd-al-Rahim, a security officer who has received training in Malaysia then went to Kenya and from there travelled to Ethiopia. He was followed there by the second Sudanese, Hashim Muhammad Jad- al-Mawla, who is a graduate of Khartoum University. Al-Mahdi noted that there is conclusive evidence that 'Abd-al-Rahim and Jad-al- Mawla used forged documents. They checked into the Empress Hotel in Addis Ababa—which is owned by a Sudanese—under false names, al- Mahdi added. Al-Mahdi noted that 'Abd-al-Rahim travelled to Addis Ababa in April, approximately three months before the assassination attempt, in order to prepare for it. He added that the third person is Muhammad Siraj. Although it has been reported that Siraj is only a code name of an Egyptian who took part in the attempt, it has been proved that he is a Sudanese citizen and a member of the Sudanese Islamic Front, which is led by Hasan al-Turabi. Siraj is a security officer and a member of al-Jihad Movement, which is affiliated to the front.

Al-Mahdi stressed that Muhammad Siraj is one of the main figures in the sinful attempt. Along with the other two Sudanese, he was smuggled out of Addis Ababa by plane following the failed attempt. Some Egyptians who participated in the attempt may have also been smuggled out of the country.

Al-Mahdi added that Hashim Jad-al-Mawla was killed following his return to Sudan. It is believed that the ruling authorities liquidated him for fear of divulging the operation. He noted that other teams indirectly took part in the assassination attempt and that a number of security officers from the al-Turabi front organization supervised the financing and liaison operations. He urged the world community to put an end to these terrorist operations.

Khartoum Ready for Dialogue With al-Mahdi, Opposition

AB3008181695 Paris AFP in English 1536 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, Aug 30 (AFP) — Sudan on Wednesday [30 August] said it was willing to open talks with opposition groups, including former

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Prime Minister Sadeq al-Mahdi, who was released from prison this week.

Justice Minister Abdel Aziz Shiddo told the daily AKHBAR AL-YOM that the government "welcomes a dialogue with any opponents committed to ethical opposition and to serving Sudan, whether Mahdi or anyone else."

However "the current opposition seeks to undermine the country and create conflict among the people," Shiddo said.

On Saturday, Mahdi left prison more than three months after his arrest in a general amnesty for political prisoners that set free 32 opposition party members.

Ali al-Haj Mohammad, minister in the Federal Government chamber, also underlined the government's willingness to meet the opposition, AKHBAR AL-YOM reported.

"If Mahdi wants peaceful dialogue, the government is ready, provided the dialogue is effective and based on principles the government has drawn up to establish the system of rule," Mohammad said.

The minister said Khartoum had drawn up solutions for Sudan's economic problems and for the 12-year civil war in the south.

President Reprieves 18 'Political Prisoners'

EA3008140595 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1020 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 30 August (SUNA) — The president of the republic, Lieutenant General al-Bashir, today issued a Republican decree reprieving 18 political prisoners.

In a press statement to the SUDANESE NEWS AGENCY, 'Abd al-Aziz Shiddu, the minister of justice and attorney general, said that the decision covers a number of those charged with the coup attempt in 1991, and those charged with the bombing incident of 1994. Professor Shiddu said that the president of the Republic's decision is aimed at ensuring political stability and continued security.

His excellency explained to SUNA that the president's decision was issued in accordance with Article 3 of the third constitutional decree and Article 28 of the criminial law, in conjunction with Article 64/1 of the rules and regulations of the people's Armed Forces.

It is worth recalling that the president last week ordered the release of 32 political prisoners, among them Sadiq al-Mahdi, the former prime minister and leader of the defunct Ummah Party.

Lawyer Hails 'Brave Decision'

EA3008223695 Khartoum SUNA in English 1725 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Khartoum, 30 Aug (SUNA) — [The] secretary general of [the] International Islamic Human Rights Organization, IIHRO, and chairman of the Sudanese bar association, advocate Fathi Khalil, has hailed President ['Umar] al-Bashir's decree dropping [the] prison terms of 18 political convicts.

In a statement to the Sudan News Agency, SUNA, Wednesday [30 August] Khalil expressed deep appreciation of the presidential pardon, describing it as a brave decision.

He said it was not the first time that President al-Bashir issues such decisions. Noting that al-Bashir responded to an appeal by the organization in 1992 and ordered the release of all political convicts serving prison terms less than 10 years and commuted the sentences of those serving life imprisonment to ten years. President al-Bashir promised at that time to reconsider the issue when the time is opportune and he has now fulfilled his pledge, Khalil said. [passage omitted]

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Kuwait

Talks With Iraq on Prisoners Extended

NC3008170395 Paris AFP in English 1648 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kuwait City, Aug 30 (AFP) — Kuwait and Iraq on Wednesday [30 August] extended their talks on the fate of 605 people reported missing in Kuwait under the 1990-1991 occupation, a Kuwaiti official said.

The two sides had expected to finish the talks on their border around 5 p.m. (1400 GMT) but agreed to meet for several more hours, an official with Kuwait's committee on the missing and prisoners of war said.

"I think the talks are good. I think there are new ideas," he said, although he had no details about the discussions which began around 9 a.m. (0600 GMT).

Vesselin Kostov, a spokesman for UN observer force whose offices were used for the meeting in the demilitarized zone (DMZ), said the talks had also been extended on the first day, Tuesday.

"This is evidence that serious talks are going on," he said.

But Kostov could provide no details about the actual talks because his UN Iraq Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM) is tasked only with providing office space, transportation and security for the delegates.

Kostov said UNIKOM had been approached about hosting more talks on the prisoners next month on the Iraqi side of the demilitarized zone, but added this had not officially been confirmed.

The delegates, including those from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) which is sponsoring the meeting, have kept a blanket of secrecy over the meeting.

Kuwaiti delegate Du'ayj al-'Anzi told AFP on Monday that Iraq had appeared to be more forthcoming on the issue by admitting this month in Geneva that it had transferred a total of 116 prisoners to Iraq during the 1990-1991 occupation.

But the official IRAQI NEWS AGENCY denied Tuesday it admitted to the cases of 116 people.

Kuwait says 605 people, including 550 Kuwaitis and eight women, were arrested in Kuwait and later transferred to Iraq.

Kuwait and Iraq have met previously in Geneva at the series of talks which are also attended by delegates from the United States, Britain, France and Saudi Arabia.

Talks End; Statement Issued

LD3008173795 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The technical committee of the tripartite commission in charge of discussing the issue of Kuwaiti prisoners and detainees resumed its meetings today at the Kuwait-Iraq border. A statement issued by the national committee for the affairs of prisoners and missing persons said that meetings of the technical committee, which began yesterday under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross and in the presence of delegations representing Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the United States, France, Great Britain, and Iraq, focussed on the files on prisoners presented by Kuwait to Iraq through the Red Cross. The statement further said that it had been decided to hold the next meetings of the technical committee on 26 and 27 September. The statement lauded the excellent efforts made by the alliance member states and the International Committee of the Red Cross in seeking to speed up a solution to this humanitarian issue.

Joint Kuwaiti-U.S. Military Exercises Begin

LD3008133595 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1233 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 30 Aug — Joint U.S.-Kuwaiti exercises started today with live ammunition in (Idayri' al-Khilah) north of the Kuwaiti capital and will last 45 days. [passage omitted]

Oman

Sultan, King Husayn Discuss Regional Issues, Bosnia

JN3108075395 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Jordanian side, headed by His Majesty King Husayn, and the Omani side, headed by His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, held a session of talks at al-Hisn Palace in Salalah. During the session, the two sides held a comprehensive review of the situation and recent developments in the region.

The Jordanian and Omani sides voiced their support for the peace process in the region. His Majesty Sultan Qabus expressed the sisterly Sultanate of Oman's support for the role played by His Majesty King Husayn to achieve a just, comprehensive, and durable peace in the region on all tracks so that the region would begin a new era in which security and stability prevail, comprehensive development is achieved, and all efforts are exerted to achieve a better future for its peoples.

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Moreover, the two sides discussed the deteriorating situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Viewpoints were identical on putting an end to the suffering of the Bosnian people and the need to reach justice that maintains these people's rights within the framework of a comprehensive settlement to the conflict — a settlement sponsored and provided with enough guarantees for its continuation by the international community.

The two sides also reviewed the distinguished relations between the two sisterly countries and discussed the possibility of developing them in the fields of transportation and trade and agricultural transactions. The Omani side expressed the sisterly sultanate's support for the Amman economic summit and confirmed the participation of the brothers in the Sultanate of Oman in this summit. [passage omitted]

Official Receives Jordanian Prime Minister

JN3008171495 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1600 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, now visiting Oman, has received at his residence in Salalah city Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah. The talks, attended by Chief of the Royal Court Marwan al-Qasim, dealt with bilateral ties and means of upgrading them in all fields. The premier stressed the importance of pan-Arab action that epitomizes Arab solidarity founded on clear and strong basis to protect the interests of the nation and the future of its generations.

Saudi Arabia

Opposition Says Regime Opposed to Ousting Saddam

MM3008154095 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 29 Aug 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Saudi Arabia Wants To 'Postpone' Saddam's Overthrow]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Baghdad, Amman, Washington, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI — [passage omitted] Saudi opposition sources have told AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI of unusual movements in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in recent days, as giant U.S. C-130 aircraft have been seen landing day and night in the airports of the eastern province. A number of senior U.S. generals have arrived in Jeddah in recent days, where they held extensive meetings with Saudi Defense Minister Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz. It is believed that these movements fall within the framework of the U.S. military scenario of a change [in Iraq].

The sources said that the Saudi Government is opposed to toppling the regime in Baghdad for two reasons:

First, the plan being promoted, namely the establishment of a Jordan-Israel-Iraq alliance in the post-Saddam stage, would strengthen the Hashemites and represent big pressure on Saudi Arabia, and could even reopen the Hijaz [western strip of Saudi Arabia] file and try to include it [Hijaz] in the new bloc.

Second, the overthrow of the Iraqi regime would mean Iraqi oil's returning to the market and a reduction in Saudi output by 1.5 million barrels a day — which would reduce revenues by 25 percent. If Saudi Arabia refused to reduce its quota by this figure, prices would drop by about $5 dollars a barrel — which means in practice reducing the revenues by 40 percent. What Saudi Arabia wants is for the current situation in Iraq to stay as it is for two years in the hope that world demand for its oil will improve during this period.

Saudi sources added that King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz sent Prince Turki al-Faysal, chief of Saudi intelligence, to Kuwait with a message for the Kuwaiti amir to persuade him not to be dragged along behind the Jordanian-U.S. scenario being prepared for Iraq, because it is not in the two countries' interests. But the Kuwaitis, who are motivated by the psychological factor, namely the ungovernable desire to topple the Baghdad regime, whose survival represents a nightmare for them, rejected the Saudi request and showed enthusiasm for the Jordanian request to supply Jordan with oil.

Arab and diplomatic sources believe that both Egypt and Jordan [as published] share Saudi Arabia's concerns over the new bloc and the Israeli role in it. This is the secret that lies behind the confusion in the current Egyptian position on Iraq.

Because establishing a new fertile crescent, reviving the Baghdad pact in another way, and including Israel in it in place of Turkey would eclipse Egypt's regional role and pose a direct threat to Syria.

It is believed that Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' sudden visit to Jordan reflects Israel's wish to establish this new alliance, because Israel wants an Iraqi regime that is loyal to the United States and accepts its [Israel's] inclusion in it [the alliance].

A Saudi political expert told AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI that any change in Iraq could lead to a big collapse in Saudi Arabia, because it cannot withstand any economic shock. This is why any Saudi move will be in the interests of Saddam Husayn and the survival of his regime. [passage omitted]

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Turkish Envoy Supports Antinarcotics Measures

LD3008145095 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1044 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Jeddah, 30 Aug — Turkekul Kurttekin, Turkish ambassador to the Kingdom, has said that his country supports all the measures, laws, and rulings taken by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia against drug traffickers and peddlers.

He added, in a statement to the newspaper 'UKAZ published in today's issue, that "the Kingdom is entitled to protect its nationals against the dangers of drugs and to take all legal measures against those involved in selling, smuggling, or peddling these poisons, in accordance with the provisions of the Islamic law.

The Turkish ambassador also said that his country does not interfere in the Kingdom's internal affairs or in the measures it is taking against the dangers threatening the safety of its nationals. He added that the Kingdom and Turkey are cooperating to confront the dangers of drugs.

He said in this respect that the Kingdom and Turkey are determined to maintain and strengthen this cooperation in order to make it more effective. He added that "some agreements are about to be concluded, and I believe that they will be signed shortly."

The Turkish ambassador described his country's relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as solid and historical, and said that joint efforts are being made by the interior ministries in both countries to make their nationals aware of the dangers of drug trafficking and drug addiction.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Delivers Letter to King

LD3008153095 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0100 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jeddah, 29 Aug — King Fahd Bin-'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, has received a message from his brother His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, emir of the State of Kuwait.

The message was conveyed to King Fahd by His Highness Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the State of Kuwait, when he and the delegation accompanying him were received today by king Fahd in his office at al-Salam Palace. [passage omitted]

His Highness Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the State of Kuwait, and his accompanying delegation had arrived in Jeddah earlier today. [passage omitted]

Leaves Jeddah After Visit

LD3008160095 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0810 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jeddah, 30 Aug — Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, [Kuwaiti] first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Jeddah this morning after a visit to the Kingdom. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Salih Discusses Regional Issues With UAE President

JN3108055995 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 31 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, held a telephone contact with his brother His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], during which he inquired about his health.

The two sides also discussed issues of interest to relations between the two fraternal countries, and developments in the Arab and Islamic arenas.

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Saddam Said To Offer Resignation; Leadership Rejects

JN3008161195 Amman SAWT AL-MAR'AH in Arabic 30 Aug 95 p 4

[Exclusive report by 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Rifa'i in Baghdad]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Upon a direct order by President Saddam Husayn, the Iraqi leadership was summoned at midnight a few days ago to an important meeting. The conferees were surprised when the Iraqi president declared his desire to step down. The members of the leadership unanimously rejected Saddam's offer.

The emergency meeting continued until the morning. The Iraqi president finally had to submit to the desire of the conferees. Following an expanded debate of the overall Iraqi situation, many solutions were proposed to salvage the Iraqi ship from a rough sea. The defection of General Husayn Kamil had made the situation more difficult for the Iraqi ship.

Our sources said the Iraqi president asked the leadership to embark immediately on reforms, revoke many emergency laws currently in force, end the subject of the Kuwait prisoners, and close any gap that the Americans and British could use to prolong the embargo. In addition, an economic committee was formed to review and increase food rations, cancel the increase in the prices of government products, and sell these products again to employees at the old, subsidized prices.

Perhaps the most important point in this meeting is that President Saddam Husayn asked for a full study to take practical steps to hold presidential elections in Iraq as soon as possible. The elections could be held as soon as the economic embargo is lifted. The president also asked for a detailed study of elections in the West, especially in France, to learn from these. [passage omitted]

Egyptian on Asylum Offer to Saddam

NC3008152495 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Egyptian Assistant Foreign Minister Badr Hammam has stated that so far his country has not received any reply from Saddam Husayn to President Husni Mubarak's offer to grant him refugee status in Egypt if he so wishes, in order to spare Iraq a war with unforeseen consequences.

In a press statement issued today, Badr Hammam denied any Egyptian-Jordanian differences over this matter. However, he noted that each party has its own views. He emphasized his country's insistence on the need for Saddam Husayn's regime to comply with all the UN resolutions that he accepted following his defeat in the Gulf War. He noted that Egypt opposes the partition of Iraq, and will stand behind its people in their decision on what regime they deem fit for themselves.

Defector's Arms Information Said To Exceed Iraq's

TA3108070095 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 31 Aug 95 pp 1, 2

[Report by David Makovsky]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] In his briefings with US officials, Iraqi defector Husayn Kamil Hasan has been providing information about Iraq's development of weapons of mass destruction above and beyond what Baghdad recently provided the UN, THE JERUSALEM POST has learned. But he has not been forthcoming when it comes to the whereabouts of Iraqi money hidden abroad. [passage omitted]

Sources said that the information Kamil provided to the US exceeded what Iraq gave Ekeus. Kamil has publicly claimed that Saddam was planning another invasion of Kuwait, and would continue on to Saudi Arabia.

Kamil's reluctance to talk about Iraqi money sources abroad could generate speculation that he would like that flow of money to remain uninterrupted if he comes to power, or perhaps Kamil, who is considered to be wealthy, has put aside more money for himself. [passage omitted]

It has been reported that Kamil's meetings have been with Central Intelligence Agency officials, but in an interview with the London-based AL-HAYAT newspaper last week, he denied meeting with US officials. [passage omitted]

Kamil's defection continues to raise the question of the extent of Jordan's strategic realignment. Sources said Saudi Arabia wants Jordan to make a total break with Iraq, and specifically to close off the Iraq-Jordan border trade which has proven profitable to both sides. The sources said Riyadh has signaled that it is linking a decision on providing Jordan with an estimated 70,000 barrels of oil a day — replacing what Iraq provides Jordan — to Amman's decision to seal its border to trade.

It seems that Saudi Arabia still fears that unless Amman makes a clean break with Iraq, it could be playing a double game. While Saudi Arabia has taken some measures at incrementally improving its ties with Jordan, it still has not forgotten that its generosity to Jordan in the 1980s was repaid by Amman's linking itself to Iraq during the Gulf crisis.

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Paper on Resolve To Implement UN Resolutions

JN3008194695 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0625 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 30 Aug (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH asserts that Iraq is the true voice that expresses the reality of the Arab nation and its positive and progressive movement at this historic and crucial point.

The paper, which speaks for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says in an article published today: The enemies have feverishly rushed to harm and destroy Iraq, attempt to undermine the infrastructure of this Arab awakening plan, strip it of its tools of technological advancement, dismantle its scientific and industrial establishments, and tighten the comprehensive embargo in a bid to spread despair among Iraqis and lead them into believing that they have no future.

The paper adds: The Iraqi people have not despaired, nor have they succumbed to all kinds of plotting. On the contrary, they have faced the situation with legendary courage and steadfastness, thus transforming Iraq from a model for advancement to a model for struggle as well that asserts the existence of this nation and its eagerness to enter the 21st century as an effective participant in determining the future of humanity. The paper points out that Iraq has managed to strip all the pro-Zionists, defeatists, capitulationists, anti-Arabs, and western agents of their alleged credibility.

The paper continues: Iraq's leadership has made it a point to implement all the UN Security Council resolutions, which show a tilt in the international balance of powers in the favor of the enemies, so as to deprive these powers of the chance to exclude the nation from contributing to the future of the world. The leadership has wagered on the fact that the Iraqi citizen will not relinquish the honor of representing the nation's existence and mission, regardless of the sacrifices. Both the leadership and the citizens have won the wager.

AL-THAWRAH says: The steadfastness of Iraq and the patience of its people have eliminated all U.S. pretexts and excuses for maintaining the embargo. Therefore, the enemy alliance, led by the United States, has resorted to its reserve of envy, meanness, and treachery in an attempt to make the nation lose faith in its struggle model, Iraq, and at the same time make the Iraqi citizen lose faith in his Arab nation.

The paper stresses that the present and the near future will prove to those who cast doubt on the nation and its struggle model that theirs is a losing wager, and that all they have done is that they have stooped to the level of treachery stripped off their masks.

Israel's Peres Meets Husayn Kamil in Amman

JN3008180995 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Tunisian paper AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM, published today, said that a Western source in Amman has said that Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has received Husayn Kamil and congratulated him on his escape from Iraq.

The source said Peres' meeting with Husayn Kamil in Amman was brief and that he asked to take photographs.

The same source added that the Israeli ambassador in Jordan met with Husayn Kamil a week ago. He was accompanied by two Israeli Mosad men, who came from the occupied territories specifically to meet with Husayn Kamil, who met with them on two occasions.

The paper says that Peres participated in the Jordanian-Israeli talks, which were concluded the day before yesterday in al-'Aqabah. The Jordanian side to the talks was headed by Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan Bin-Talal. King Husayn received Peres on Sunday.

Egyptian 'Citizen' Demands Trial of Husayn Kamil

JN3008203495 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A judicial source in Cairo has said the Egyptian attorney general has received a complaint from an Egyptian citizen in which he asks Egyptian justice to demand Jordan extradite the fugitive Husayn Kamil to bring him to trial in Egypt as a war criminal.

The source added that the fugitive Husayn Kamil has tortured and killed several Iraqis, Egyptians, Jordanians, and Palestinians and that he has evidence of these crimes.

Paper Downplays Husayn Kamil Defection

JN3008115495 Baghdad INA in English 0950 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, 30 Aug [INA]—The storm that has been created by the defection of Husayn Kamil Hasan will soon pass away. Observers and policy-makers will soon realize and come to know that Kamil's credibility hinges on his being a kin of President Saddam Husayn.

He may offer some intelligence information, but his issue can easily be tackled by the Iraqi leadership by introducing some radical changes on the security arrangements that have been under the supervision of Kamil's brother, the BAGHDAD OBSERVER newspaper says.

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Iraq's friends and foes would soon come to realize that Kamil is no more than a managing personality that was entrusted to run state owned industrial projects that have been designed and carried out by highly qualified Iraqi experts and specialists who have been sent abroad on scientific mission over the last 27 years of the age of the 17 July 1968 revolution.

Therefore, Iraq's brothers and friends should keep their trust and confidence in Iraqis firm and unshaken because the country which has been able to withstand two devastating wars and over five years of an unprecedented and unjust economic embargo can easily put the episode of Husayn Kamil's defection behind and continue its endeavor to resume its vital role on world arena.

Without a strong Iraq the future of the Gulf region will always be in doubt because there is a regional power arming itself to the teeth to regain supremacy over the entire Gulf region either through running terrorist organization to destabilize the security and political situation in the region or through its continuous buildup of its military power that would be used at any time in the future to carry out its designs against the states of the region.

Without a strong Iraq, the Gulf region will remain a milking cow for the U.S. and its allies which are missing no opportunity to send thousands of their troops whose expenses would have to be paid by the Gulf states.

So the Gulf states in essence are paying for their own occupation by U.S. forces. This is a case unprecedented in the history of mankind that a state has to pay for its occupation by another one.

Paper Says King Husayn 'Severed All Relations'

JN3108104495 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 26 Aug 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] King Husayn has severed all relations with Iraq and gotten closer to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. At the same time, he praised the renegade Husayn Kamil who had defected to Jordan.

In a speech on Wednesday, the Jordanian king claimed that Iraq intended to attack Kuwait and Saudi Arabia and that the renegade Husayn Kamil had opened his eyes to that. By this approach, King Husayn wanted to please Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, who had severed their relations with Jordan.

According to an opposition member in the Jordanian House of Representatives, King Husayn's accusations against Baghdad constituted the turning point long awaited by Riyadh and Kuwait. This House member, who declined to mention his name, believes that King Husayn severed his ties with Baghdad in order to join the camp of the Gulf States and the United States. He also believes that the 180-degree turnabout in Amman's position will disturb the Jordanian public, which is still trying to digest the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty concluded in October 1994.

Parallel with his accusations against Baghdad, the Jordanian king praised the renegade Husayn Kamil and adopted the U.S. conditions for lifting the embargo on Iraq, including the fate of the missing Kuwaitis in Iraq.

It is noteworthy that Jordan is witnessing a rapprochement with Saudi Arabia, which has appointed an ambassador in Amman for the first time in five years. Furthermore, Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti and Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah are scheduled to meet in Egypt next month on the sidelines of the Arab foreign ministers' meeting.

Jordanian Paper Said To Urge End to Embargo

JN3008182195 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In an article published today, the Jordanian newspaper AL-RA'Y stressed that Iraq has implemented all the UN resolutions and has fulfilled all its obligations. The paper stresses that it is now time for the UN Security Council to fulfill its commitments, end the embargo, and not yield to any pressure.

The paper says the goal behind maintaining the embargo imposed on Iraq is to try to bring Iraq to its knees, plunder its resources, and to drain the brains of its scientists and keep them away from science and progress.

Jordanian Businessmen Cited on Iraqi Market

JN3008202495 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In statements published today by the Jordanian newspaper AL-RA'Y, Jordanian industrialists said they fear the Jordanian economy will incur a major loss if they are denied access into the Iraqi market.

Hamdi al-Tabba', president the Jordanian Businessmen Association, said the loss of the Iraqi market will deal a major blow to the Jordanian economy. He said: This loss cannot be compensated on the short and medium term, and we cannot even think about it. The Jordanian industries cannot meet the demand of the Gulf markets which have a different consumer preference.

He added: We cannot improve our economic ties with the Gulf states at Iraq's expense, although we welcome the opening of the Gulf markets, which have been closed for five years.

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Jordanian businessmen say Jordan's dependence on Iraq is the result of an industrial base that was basically built to serve the Iraqi market during the Iraq-Iran war between 1980 and 1988, and this includes the re-export trade from the Jordanian port of al- 'Aqabah to Iraq. They added that several Jordanian industrial firms expanded their business after the Iraqi-U.S. war in 1990 to meet the demands of the Iraqi market, particularly in the vegetable oil and detergent industries and in the transportation sector.

Muhammad Sa'id Badrkhan, manager of a governmental industrial project, said: There will be greater prospects if more facilities are given to facilitate the entry of Jordanian goods [into Gulf markets]. If the restrictions imposed on transportation are lifted, the flow of Jordanian goods will undoubtedly be better. However, this cannot compensate for the Iraqi market in the short term.

Kamal Qaqish, vice president of the Jordanian Exporters Society and general manager of 'Ala'-al-Din industrial company, which used to export its products to Iraq before the U.S. aggression, said: We do not believe that we can compensate for the Iraqi market with the neighboring markets. He added: The volume of trade with the Gulf will remain small because it is an open market and imports are not subject to custom tariffs. Naturally, the Jordanian industries may not be able to compete with the industries of Korea or Taiwan, which export their products to the Gulf.

Qaqish added: The Iraqi market differentiates between the foreign and Arab industrial products, and there are no customs taxes imposed on the Jordanian industrial products. That market also gives preference to the Arab industries.

He said: The Gulf market is important, but is a limited one which cannot in any way be an alternative to the Iraqi market. A large sector of the Jordanian industrialists depend on trade with Iraq. The end of trade with Iraq will harm a big group of owners of small workshops, tire merchants, and commercial printing shops which print school books for the Iraqi schools, as well as a significant number of workers in the transportation sector — including truck owners and drivers and workers in the port of al-'Aqabah.

[Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic on 30 August publishes on page 14 an approximately 1,300-word REUTER-datelined report containing the above statements. AL-RA'Y report also includes statements by the Jordanian finance minister in which he says any expansion in Jordan's trade in other areas and markets will compensate for any drop in trade with Iraq.]

TV Notes CNN Report on Iraqi Refugees in Jordan

JN3008185595 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. CNN television network has said that Iraqi defector Husayn Kamil has called on the Iraqi people to overthrow the regime of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. However, CNN continued, thousands of Iraqi refugees in Jordan have received this idea with a shrug of the shoulders.

[Begin recording, unidentified CNN correspondent, in English] [words indistinct] center around finding jobs, not fomenting revolution. Most Iraqis would not speak on camera, but they said they were apolitical and not interested. Husayn Kamil is mentally immature, says this Iraqis have fled to Jordan since the end of the Gulf war [sentence as heard]. [end recording]

The CNN correspondent in Amman said: Everyday, hundreds of Iraqis assemble at the al-Hashimiyah Park in Amman to look for work and not to foment revolution. Most Iraqis would not speak on camera, but they say this is a political matter and that they are not interested in Husayn Kamil's call for overthrowing the regime. The network cited an Iraqi citizen as saying that Husayn Kamil is mentally immature. Officials estimate the number of Iraqis who have come to Jordan since the end of the war at 80,000. Most of those have fled the international sanctions to look for a better life. The correspondent said that observers also wonder whether the Jordanian people are willing to make the Kingdom a center for opposition following the argument raised by the defector. The correspondent cited a Jordanian citizen as saying that if Husayn Kamil is interested in political asylum, he is welcome, but if he wants to talk politics or to launch initiatives to overthrow the Iraqi regime, then he should go somewhere else.

CNN screened a video clip showing pro-Iraq demonstrations during the war. It said that during the war and its aftermath, Jordanians supported Saddam Husayn, whom they view as an Arab hero. A shop owner says that he currently sells two T-shirts bearing a picture of Saddam Husayn every week. He indicated that he does not intend to sell T-shirts carrying defector Husayn Kamil's picture.

Al-Sahhaf Protests Recent U.S. Remarks on Iraq

JN3108092695 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0848 GMT 31 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] New York, 31 Aug (INA) — Iraq has condemned recent hostile U.S. official statements which are made every now and then by U.S. officials. This came in a letter addressed by Iraqi Foreign

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Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf to the Security Council on Wednesday. [passage omitted]

The following is the text of the letter:

Your Excellency Nogrohi Snomorti [name as transliterated], President of the Security Council, New York

Your Excellency,

I would like to inform you that the U.S. Administration has every now and then announced its official policy which confirms that the U.S. Government is deliberately working on changing the national political system in Iraq. The latest of these statements was that which was made by the spokesman of the U.S. State Department in a news conference on 28 August 1995. He said that the United States will continue its efforts to change the political system in Iraq.

The spokesman also asserted that "the United States will continue to apply pressure on the Iraqi Government until a government of U.S. creation replaces it."

The spokesman rudely added: "Obviously, the United States believes that Saddam Husayn's regime should cease to exist."

The U.S. official statements represent an announcement of measures taken by the U.S. Government to interfere in Iraq's domestic affairs and stage brutal acts of aggression against it.

Your Excellency: These U.S. actions constitute a flagrant interference in Iraq's internal affairs, and a serious precedent in the international relations, which conflict with the UN Charter. They also constitute a clear and frank violation of the simplest provisions of the UN Charter and the principles of the international law of respecting the sovereignty of states. These illegal actions conflict even with what the UN Security Council has adopted in Resolution 687 of 1991 in terms of provisions stipulating respect for Iraq's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence.

Your excellency: We strongly condemn such official statements by a big power which is a permanent UN Security Council member state which is supposed to abide by the letter and spirit of the UN Charter, against a state which is a founding member of the United Nations. This proves the extent of the U.S. Government's indifference to the simplest rules of action among states, and to the UN Charter and international law.

The Government of the Republic of Iraq denounces the U.S. Government's hostile policy, and emphasizes Iraq's right to reply, in accordance with the UN Charter and the principles of international law, to the hostile U.S. policy and the U.S. Government's interference in Iraq's internal affairs.

We kindly request that this letter be distributed as an official UN Security Council document.

With our heartfelt respect.

[Signed] Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, foreign minister of the Republic of Iraq

[Dated] Baghdad, 30 August 1995

U.S. Embargo Policy Not 'Binding' on World

JN3108080995 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0620 GMT 31 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 31 Aug (INA)—An Iraqi newspaper wonders about who has allowed the U.S. Administration to inaugurate itself as the only ruler of the world, and to think that its standards can be good for rule and arbitration.

In an article published today, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH, mouthpiece of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says: America is neither the beginning, nor the end of the world. It cannot be a good judge on whose ruling one can rely. This is because it is accused and condemned as a war criminal. Through its interference in internal affairs, it has caused many problems and tragedies for the people of the world. It is basically responsible for our people's suffering, deprivation, and genocide through its arrogant insistence on maintaining the blockade despite the world's astonishment.

The paper adds: The distribution of the U.S. writs of forgiveness under U.S. hegemony has become a levied tax which people should accept and swallow whether they like it or not. This is a most ridiculous farce. Because, in short, this is a hateful expression of the illusions of force and arrogance against peoples.

The paper says: The U.S. Administration's claims and disinformation against Iraq are part of thefierce and unjust campaign it is used to within the framework of its open dirty war aimed at influencing Iraq's political decisionmaking in the hope of weakening it, containing it, and imposing hegemony on it. This is an illusion which still motivates the inhabitants of the White House and the international Zionist circles, and an expression of a true crisis this administration is experiencing in light of Iraq's credibility regarding its cooperation with the UN Special Commission.

Referring to the U.S. claims that Iraq has massed its forces to threaten three Arab countries all at once, the paper says: Washington has created a big fuss and dispatched its aircraft carriers and warships through rude threats in order to fabricate a crisis. However, this bubble exploded in America's face to expose the extent of its rancor and arrogance. This is not the

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first time, and it will not be the last in the record of its slanders. However, this is a true expression of the extent of bankruptcy and confusion which now govern Washington's policy toward Iraq.

Concluding, the paper says: Iraq, which has cooperated with high credibility with the UN Special Commission, through the completion of the files related to Resolution 687, will not be intimidated by the U.S. threats and clamor about the continuation of the blockade. This is America's business. However, this is not necessarily binding to the world. Will Washington realize this, or it will pursue its intransigence and empty illusions of influencing steadfast Iraq's decisionmaking?

UN Security Council Urged To Lift Oil Embargo

JN3108090995 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0642 GMT 31 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 31 Aug (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH has urged the UN Security Council to lift the oil embargo imposed on Iraq as a first step toward the total lifting of the blanket blockade, especially since Iraq has fulfilled all its obligations toward the UN Security Council resolutions, particularly Resolution 687.

In an article today, the paper says: UN Special Commission Chairman Rolf Ekeus' statements show that Iraq's right is clear, and that that this right has begun to dissipate the darkness of forgery regarding world pubic opinion.

The paper denounces the U.S. Administration's stand toward the Iraqi people's rights and its refusal to lift the blockade to ease the peopie's suffering. It says: The U.S. tyrant and its henchmen have gone too far in their hostility and arrogance. Their declared objective now is to conspire against the 17-30 July 1968 Revolution and its leader, President Saddam Husayn.

It points out that the U.S. tyrant and its henchmen have never stopped fabricating pretexts, using the most trivial things to continue their conspiracies. The recent fabricated U.S. clamor, though fierce and mean, is not new to our people and their triumphant march.

The paper recalls the great successes achieved by the 17-30 July 1968 Revolution under the most difficult circumstances in the modern age. It says: There is nothing more difficult than the test of honorable jihad in all the chapters of the the eternal Mother of Battles.

More on Statements by Envoy to Arab League

JN3008123295 Baghdad INA in English
0830 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, 30 Aug (INA)—Iraq's permanent delegate to the Arab League Dr. Nabil Najm has condemned the premeditated escalation by the U.S Administration designed to inflict further harm on the people of Iraq in a bid to threaten the pan-Arab security.

In press statements here on Tuesday, Dr. Najm called on the Arab countries to take firm attitudes in line with the national constituents so as to safeguard the security and stability of the region and abort the foreign interventions in the Arab affairs.

Iraq has no any intention against any other party in the region, and therefore the U.S. buildups and fleets in the Arab Gulf region were unjustifiable and fall within the frame of the incessant conspiracy on Iraq to shuffle the cards, Dr. Najm confirmed.

He further said that there have been American strategic goals a view to imposing further pressures on some Arab governments and blackmailing a number of Arab Gulf countries to secure its oil interests.

The fresh U.S. media campaign and the dispatch of the fleets and warships are part of the U.S. anti-Iraq pursuit and an embodiment to its feverish efforts to keep the anti-Iraq blockade in place and abort attempts by the international community to lift the oppressive unwarranted embargo, the Iraqi diplomat said.

He confirmed Iraq's firm attitude designed to cooperate with the UN Special Commission with the aim of ending all pending issues as soon as possible for putting Para 22 of Resolution 687 into action.

He made it clear that the U.S. Administration and statements by senior U.S. officials were part of a feverish campaign to twist the facts and undermine Iraq's credibility and its cooperation with the UN and the Security Council.

Dr. Najm stressed that Iraq is capable of facing all chapters of the conspiracy and the hostile designs of the U.S. Administration, especially the unjust embargo, confirming that Iraq had foiled different chapters of the U.S.-led 30-state aggression.

U.S. Aircraft 'Violation' of Airspace Protested

JN2708090095 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0715 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 27 Aug (INA)—Iraq has once again protested the U.S. aircraft violation of

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Iraqi airspace for purposes of reconnaissance, provocation, and dropping of flares.

In a letter to UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali from Iraq's permanent UN representative, Iraq said that between 11 and 20 August, the U.S. aircraft carried out 856 aggressive sorties over the northern and southern parts of Iraq.

In its letter, Iraq also said the U.S. reconnaissance plane TR-1, taking off from bases in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, violated the Iraqi airspace and carried out 13 sorties over southern Iraq during the same period. Iraq asked that the letter be distributed as a Security Council document.

World Stance on Airspace 'Violations' Questioned

JN2708203195 Baghdad Mother of Battles Radio in Arabic 1750 GMT 27 Aug 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] How many times has Iraq protested violations of its airspace by U.S. aircrafts? This question can be rephrased as follows: How many times has the United Nations heard Iraq making successive protests? Again, we ask: How many times have the Arabs and Arab governments in particular heard of the repeated U.S. violations and of the successive Iraqi protests? The U.S. air violations, consisting of thousands of air sorties, are intended for surveillance, provocation, and dropping of flares in a manner that is not in line with norms, traditions, laws, and all that is related to peoples' freedom and countries' independence and sovereignty.

To be more explicit, those violations are designed and executed by the United States only. In other words, the United Nations has nothing to do with them. No UN resolution has anything do with this exposed hostile activity. However, what makes things even more bitter is that the United States is using Arabs against Arabs and an Arab territory against another Arab territory. The United States could have flown its aircraft from aircraft carriers. However, the United States has chosen to lie in wait in an Arab territory and to fly from an Arab territory. Undoubtedly, this is even more serious and painful. The question that needs an answer here is: Why does the United Nations not move against those illegal practices? Why do some Arab countries fail to see this behavior as a violation of laws and an encroachment upon the sovereignty of an independent country? Why can't they see that the target is not Iraq only, but all Arabs?

For those with weak memories, let us remind them of a plot hatched by the United States against Iraq. It is the 32d Parallel plot which bans Iraqi aircraft from flying over Iraqi territory south of the 32d Parallel. As arrogant, greedy, and aggressive as it is, the United States prevents Iraqis from using their own airspace, while it permits itself to violate all Arab skies. Then, Iraq destroyed the plot that aimed to divide Iraq into pieces. Perhaps this explains the U.S. (?persistence) in violations, rumors, and false statements. However, as much as it exposes America's aggressiveness and bankruptcy, this behavior indicates the firmness of Iraq, which has not been shaken and will not be shaken by America's violations and its aircraft.

Israeli Journalists, Poets Said Invited to Festival

NC3008154395 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been disclosed in Baghdad that Hamid Yusuf Hammadi, minister of culture and information in Saddam Husayn's Government, has invited a number of Israeli journalists, writers, and poets to visit Iraq and attend the Babil Festival, which the authorities plan to hold at the end of September.

Sources close to Minister Hammadi say that the ministry has no reservations about any Israeli working in the journalistic or cultural fields who wishes to visit Iraq and attend the aforementioned festival. The authorities will provide a number of facilities and services to these visitors, the sources added.

The same sources added that the first namelist of Israelis who have expressed a desire to visit Iraq has already been received in Baghdad. It includes poets, artists, singers, and musicians. Their names will be released when they arrive in Baghdad.

Saddam Chairs Economic, Industrial Committee Meetings

JN3008112495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1042 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 30 Aug (INA) — President Saddam Husayn chaired a meeting that included Revolution Command Council members Taha Yasin Ramadan; who is also the vice president; and Tariq 'Aziz, who is also deputy prime minister; in addition to members of the Economic and Industrial Committees.

The meeting was attended by Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi, head of the Presidential Office.

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Saddam Gets Loyalty Cable From Republican Guard Chief

JN3008203395 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, president of the republic and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, may God preserve him, has commented on a cable addressed to him by the chief of staff of the Republican Guard on the end of the annual military scientific symposium of the Republican Guard as follows: Give glad tidings to those who patiently persevere. [part of a Koranic verse]

Following is the text of the cable:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Those who believe fight in the cause of God, and those who reject faith fight in the cause of evil. So fight ye against the friends of Satan. Feeble indeed is the cunning of Satan. [Koranic verse]

To Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, president of the republic and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, may God preserve him.

From the fighter staff lieutenant general the chief of staff of the Republican Guard:

My lord the leader president, in continuation of the stage of jihad and steadfastness, the stage of crossing to the shore of victory and dignity, your heroic sons — who inherited glory from their ancestors over thousands of years, who are defending their great Iraq, and who had the honor of participating in foiling the eight-year aggression in the glorious al-Qadisiyah of Saddam and in the 30-state aggression, in its military chapter, the great duel, the immortal Mother of Battles — continue training and preparedness. They also continue to acquire all that will provide them with determination and strength, under your courageous leadership, to foil the aggression of siege.

The men of the Republican Guard, the men of difficult missions and protectors of people, have ended their annual military scientific symposium between 19 and 22 August 1995, which was held under the slogan: Military Education is a Basic Pillar to Increase Combat Capability of the Republican Guard Forces in the Stage of Crossing. The symposium covered three areas: Training, combat capability, and the characteristics and features of modern battles.

The fruits of their epic-like jihad are before the eyes promising their final victory in the stage of crossing and faith. It is the jihad of knights under decisive circumstances. The training standard and modern field performance will reinforce our combat capability in defending the homeland against all enemies and lowly traitors. We have become more determined and more prepared thanks to your excellency's wisdom and genius.

My lord the leader president: In the name of all the heroic fighters of the Republican Guard — officers and other ranks — we renew the pledge of loyalty to your excellency, promising to make sacrifices for the sake of our dear homeland. In this, we seek help from God and guidance from your wisdom, asking Almighty God to keep you for our people and nation a supporter and leader on the path of wellbeing, glory, and construction. We pledge to you, my lord the leader president, we will remain your faithful soldiers, defending the sublime principles so that the banner of Allahu Akbar [God is great] will remain high in the sky of the victorious militant Iraq. We will remain under your leadership and at your disposal. Long live, my lord, a victorious leader, teacher, theorizer, and symbol.

Long live the people; long live the party; long live the leader; long live the Army; and victory is our lot.

God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

[Signed] The fighter staff lt. gen. the chief of staff of the Republican Guard

[Dated] 22 August 1995

Kurdish Army Deserters Call Government Centers

JN2508191495 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 4 Aug 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Al-Sulaymaniyah (INA) — The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY correspondent in al-Sulaymaniyah reports that hundreds of Kurdish youths, who have deserted or avoided military service in the Army, have begun calling at recruitment centers outside the autonomous region, especially in al-Ta'mim Governorate, in order to benefit from the recent general amnesty which was granted to deserters and defaulters. The correspondent adds that when Jalal Talabani's followers discovered that, they started preventing these youths from joining their recruitment centers. Their families have called at Jalal Talabni's offices in al-Sulaymaniyah requesting that their sons be allowed to benefit from the general amnesty decision. But they were faced with ill treatment, and some of them were beaten up and humiliated. Armed followers of Jalal Talabani stormed Sirijnar quarter in al-Sulaymaniyah and detained several persons on the charge of making instigations against Jalal's party. Those detained included Kamal Ramzi and 'Abd Salih. The INA correspondent in Irbil says that clashes are still continuing between the followers of Talabani and Barzani in the Rawanduz and northeastern Shaqlawah. However, he adds, these

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clashes became sporadic in the past two days, which seems that both sides are getting ready for a new round.

Pro-Regime Kurdish Parties Hail 49th Anniversary

JN2508191895 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 16 Aug 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] The Kurdistan Democratic Party has affirmed that the glorious 17-30 July Revolution under leader President Saddam Husayn has made great achievements for our Kurdish people, including the 11 March 1970 Declaration and the 1974 Autonomy Law. In a statement issued yesterday on its 49th anniversary, the party said the establishment of the autonomous legislative and executive institutions is a firm guarantee for the unshakable Iraqi national unity and the best means for entrenching unity and concerting efforts for the sake of a unified, prosperous Iraq.

The statement emphasizes that the Kurdistan Democratic Party will adhere to its pledge to continue the struggle for the sake of entrenching Arab-Kurdish fraternity and the bases of Iraqi national unity and advancing our great Iraq in all fields and activities in order to strengthen the common struggle against enemy plans.

For its part, the Kurdistan Revolutionary Party asserted that it places all its capabilities at the disposal of leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve and protect him, in defense of great Iraq and the gains of the glorious 17-30 July Revolution. In a statement issued yesterday on the occasion of its 49th anniversary, the party said: In these historic days, the Kurdistan Revolutionary Party, the struggle vanguard, its friends, and masses will continue their relentless national struggle in defense of the freedom of Kurdistan and the honor, will, freedom, and rights of our Kurdish people as well as the unity, sovereignty, and independence of our great Iraq, the country of both Arabs and Kurds.

Ministry Repairs War-Damaged Depots, Pumping Stations

JN2508174595 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 4 Aug 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] The Oil Ministry's pipeline company has reconstructed several major installations which were bombed during the criminal 30-state aggression on our country. General Manager Salah 'Aziz Karim has said his company has repaired the damage caused to pumping stations and depots in Bayji, al-Diwaniyah, al- Shu'aybah, al-Nasiriyah, and al-Kut. He said that in some cases the damage was 80 percent.

The general manager said that the reconstruction work included a gas plant north of al-Rumaylah and a storage and refrigeration complex in Khawr al-Zubayr which sustained devastating strikes during the aggression. He also said that the company has removed thousands of mines which were dropped by the forces of aggression on those areas and repaired pipelines for oil by-products and liquid gas which were also damaged during the aggression. He added: The company built, welded, and connected pipelines of different diameters to replace damaged networks. It also built pipelines for transporting liquid gas to the manually operated gas filling plants which were built in al-Rusafah, Abu-Ghurayb, al-Lutayfiyah, Bub al- Sham, al-Harithah power station, and the paper plant.

Equipment Repairs Reducing Baghdad Power Outages

JN2508173795 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 4 Aug 95 p 4

[Report by Tariq al-Juburi]

[FBIS Translated Text] The maintenance campaign which has been carried out by the strugglers of the State Establishment for Power Distribution in Baghdad has greatly reduced the power cuts which certain areas of Baghdad had experienced at the beginning of the summer. Power supply is now stable in most areas which used to complain from frequent power cuts.

AL-THAWRAH has made a tour of al-Kazimiyah, al-Nur, and al- Sayyidiyah areas, where engineers and technicians of the power establishment carried out their campaign. The citizens expressed their satisfaction with and thanks for the efforts of these strugglers, who replaced old, damaged wires and repaired transformers which were vandalized by the weak-hearted.

We hope that the campaign will cover all the areas of our beloved capital, Baghdad, especially al-Qadisiyah quarter whose residents are still facing power cuts, and that we will all assume our responsibility in protecting the special equipment for power transformers which are located in the streets, avoid any tampering with electricity wires, and cooperate with the competent authorities by informing against whoever tries to encroach on public property.

Exhibition Showcases Restored Military Hardware

JN2508173495 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 4 Aug 95 p 4

[Report by Husayn 'Imran]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the supervision and follow-up of 'Udayy Saddam Husayn, Iraq's brave strugglers carried out the second "call of the leader" campaign in which scores of vehicles and ground

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equipment as well as fighter aircraft and helicopters were repaired, thanks to the sincere concerted efforts which were exerted by the engineers and technicians of the Air Force and Army Aviation and the strugglers of the Military Industrialization Organization.

Recently, we witnessed a comprehensive exhibition which consisted of restored ground and air military equipment, which was destroyed during the military aggression. Hundreds of vehicles and equipment were repaired, including ground inspection stations for missiles, laser stations, and wireless communication equipment, in addition to thousands of light and medium firearms, including machine guns, tanks, and armored cars.

Last Wednesday, the brave Iraqis rejoiced this splendid military achievement. 'Udayy Saddam Husayn attended the air show which was organized by Iraq's strugglers following the repair of scores of fighter aircraft and helicopters, which demonstrated Iraq's scientific ability for creative work without the help of foreign expertise or the expenditure of foreign currency. In fact, the second "call of the leader" campaign was purely Iraqi since it was carried out with Iraqi manpower, which produced the spare parts.

Congratulations to the Iraqis on this great achievement. Blessed are the efforts of the Iraqi strugglers, who carried out this campaign in a record time under the supervision of 'Udayy Saddam Husayn.

Once again, we have every right to be proud of Iraq's achievements and to belong to this dear homeland, lofty Iraq, which has astonished the enemies by the strength of its people and the relentless will of its sons.

This is an open invitation to the citizens to visit the exhibition of the second "call of the leader" campaign in order to see the achievements of their zealous Iraqi sons who repaired the ground and air military equipment and vehicles.

IRCS Resumes 'Humanitarian Work' in al-Sulaymaniyah

JN2708162395 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 22 Aug 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad—The Iraqi Red Crescent Society [IRCS] branch in al-Sulaymaniyah has resumed its humanitarian work after an approximately one-year hiatus.

IRCS President Dr. Sa'dun Khalifah said the IRCS branch resumed its activities after the gangs of treason failed to run its affairs and after International Red Crescent [as published] authorities refused to deal with them. He noted that as of next month, the branch will start distributing food and medical relief to the families in the governorate, along the lines of other IRCS branches in the autonomous region.

Irrigation Minister Meets Food Assessment Delegation

JN2708123995 Baghdad INA in English 1150 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Aug 27, INA — Minister of Irrigation Nizar Jum'ah has met with a delegation of valuing food and agricultural situation in Iraq. The delegation includes representatives from international Food and Agriculture Organization, World Food Program, World Health Organization and Harvard University.

During the meeting, the minister reviewed the negative impacts resulted from the unjust embargo on agriculture and irrigation in the country, and the difficulty in providing food for the people of Iraq as a result.

Programs of the ministry to reclaim lands and dig wells have been obstacled [as received] due to the lack of necessary equipments and spare parts as a result of the embargo, he said.

Cooperative General Federation, Fund Elect Boards

JN2508175595 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 4 Aug 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Acting on leader President Saddam Husayn's slogan: "Democracy is a source of strength for the individual and society," the boards of directors of the Cooperative General Federation and the Cooperative Fund were elected yesterday in the presence of 'Abd-al-Tawwab 'Abdallah al-Mulla Huwaysh, chairman of the committee supervising the management of the cooperative movement.

Those elected to the board of directors of the Cooperative General Federation are: Hisham Hasan Tawfiq, Ra'uf Mahmud Sa'id as vice presidents of the General Federation, and six other members who represent the different cooperative societies, such as the consumer society, the production society, the services society, and the housing society. They will work full-time.

The participants in the elections were the 75 members of the federation's general assembly who represent cooperative societies in all governorates.

Those elected to the board of directors of the Cooperative Fund were five members who are not full time.

The members of the two new boards pledged to leader President Saddam Husayn that they will exert their maximum effort in order to enhance the task of the cooperative movement, offer the best services to the

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citizens, and thus help with other public sectors in beating the unjust blockade.

The elections were attended by the members of the committee supervising the management of the cooperative movement.

Health Source on Increase in Infertility Cases

JN2808161295 Baghdad INA in English
1230 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Aug 28, INA — A health source has stressed an increase in barrenness cases, especially among males, during the latest years due to the internationally banned radioactives used by the U.S and its allies against Iraqi people during the 30-state aggression on the country.

Dr 'Abd-al-Razzaq Hasan al-Tahiri, a specialist in barrenness diseases at Saddam Medical Hospital, said there are other factors which helped increasing such cases among Iraqis such as malnutrition, acute shortages of food necessary for growth and others due to the hard circumstances of the unjust embargo imposed on the country for more than five years.

Industrial Teams Producing Chemicals, Spare Parts

JN2508174895 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic
17 Aug 95 p 4

[Report by Aghadir Mahdi]

[FBIS Translated Text] Although barely three years old, the State Enterprise for Gas Filling has begun making spare parts for annually-operated and automated butane gas filling plants from local raw materials to ensure the supply of liquid gas and thus end the crises which usually occur in the cold seasons.

Making this announcement to AL-QADISIYAH, Director General Zuhayr Mustafa Shakir has said: Our creative teams have begun producing substances which used to be imported from abroad, such as pentane, which goes into many items which are produced by the Arab Company for Chemicals and Detergents, at the rate of half a tonne per day; hexane for the State Enterprise for Vegetable Oils at the rate of 800 tonnes per month, and hitane [transliterated as published] for the Modern Dye Company at the rate of 100 tonnes as an initial production.

The director general added: We have also begun producing alternatives for the spare parts which are needed by filling plants, such as chains, gears, brushes, and valves in cooperation with the Industry Ministry, the Military Industrialization Organization, and local markets.

Irrigation Minister Inaugurates Project in Al-Anbar

JN2508174495 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic
10 Aug 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Irrigation Minister Nizar Jum'ah al-Qasir yesterday inaugurated the first phase of an irrigation project in the Upper Euphrates region in 'Anah District, al-Anbar Governorate, which was carried out by the ministry's working teams. The project consists of a pumping station and canals to irrigate 2,000 donums of lands which are suitable for summer crops. This will increase agricultural produce, ensure food for our people, and thus help them defy the economic blockade.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by the senior under secretary in the Ministry of Irrigation, al-Anbar Governor 'Awwad Hamad al-Bandar, the comrade secretaries and members of al-Anbar and al-Jazirah party branch leaderships, the directors general of the ministry, the administrative personnel and party officials in the district, and a large gathering of citizens.

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Defense Establishment Views Syrian Scud Threat

TA3008182895 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 30 Aug

[Qobi Marenko video report]

[FBIS Translated Text] We begin with revealing the fact that Syria today has the capability of producing Scud missiles, including the Scud C type which can reach every point in Israel. The defense establishment maintains that the Syrian missile-production capability constitutes a grave threat to Israel. Our correspondent Qobi Marenko has the details:

[Begin Marenko recording] The Syrian procurement of surface-to-surface missiles, boosted after the Gulf war, has reached a new stage: No more massive purchases from North Korea — Syria has achieve the ability to produce Scud missiles, including the Scud C type. This is an estimate of the defense establishment. The most advanced missile the Arab countries have can hit any target in Israel, even if equipped with a chemical warhead. Today, the Syrians have some 60 launchers and hundreds of surface-to-surface missiles.

The defense establishment recently estimated that a self-production capability magnifies the Syrian threat. The Syrian ground forces have recently conducted frequent drills in launching Scud missiles. The Syrians are also performing tests on the new missiles. The working assumption is that a sudden Syrian attack on Israel will begin with a barrage of Scud missiles on strategic Israeli targets. The number of missiles launched at Israel in such a case will be much larger than during the Gulf war. The only answer Israel has to face this threat is the Arrow, the antimissile missile. This system is expected to be operational in some three years, and even then the Arrow will not be able to intercept the entire quantity of missiles the Syrians are able to produce. According to the defense establishment concept, the Arrow is supposed to neutralize the first sudden Scud strike and the Air Force will have to pick up the war against the missiles from there. [end recording]

Sources Fear POW Affair Causing 'Real Crisis'

TA3108091495 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 31 Aug 95 p 15

[Report by Shefi Gabay, 'Ada Kohen, and Hemi Shalev]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Egyptian opposition newspaper AL-SHA'B yesterday charged Israeli Ambassador to Cairo David Sultan with personally killing more than 100 Egyptian POW's in the Sinai in the 1956 and 1967 wars. The front-page report was accompanied by Sultan's photograph with the caption: "The Killer Ambassador." [passage omitted]

Political sources in Jerusalem stated last night that the matter of the killing of POW's is generating a real crisis in relations between the two countries. Foreign Ministry officials promised that Israel would react to the report. Ambassador Sultan said: "It is all a lie. I was a high school student in 1956. I do not need to justify myself; neither do I wish to react to the report." [passage omitted]

Yo'av Biran, head of the Foreign Ministry's Peace and Middle East Division, said yesterday: "We will not overlook such a grave accusation, despite the fact that it was published in a lunatic, religious newspaper. Although the story is an obvious fabrication, our reaction will come from the most senior echelons."

Biran added that the ambassador to Egypt has not killed any Egyptian POW's. "He was never a paratrooper; he served in the Artillery Corps. Sultan is known to act sensibly and with self-control in the most difficult situations. This time he feels wounded."

Reports arriving from Cairo indicate that Israeli businessmen operating in the Egyptian capital are reporting growing hostility toward them. A political source said last night that the situation is "crazy" and that there has not been such a hostile public attitude toward Israel since the Lebanon war.

On the sidelines of President Mubarak's call for an investigation into the affair and prosecution of the guilty parties, contacts between the two governments are continuing. Deputy Foreign Minister Eli Dayan will meet with Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni today.

Jerusalem is concerned that pressure from Egyptian public opinion will soon lead to an escalation in the tone taken by the Egyptian Government.

Foreign Ministry Protests Reports

TA3008175195 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Foreign Ministry today issued a sharp reaction to the venomous anti-Israeli propaganda promulgated by the Egyptian press on the Egyptian POW's murder affair. The ultimate report, published by an opposition newspaper, claimed that Israeli Ambassador to Egypt David Sultan had butchered 100 Egyptian POW's in his days as a paratroop officer. Deputy Foreign Minister Eli Dayan demanded that the Egyptian authorities deny and denounce the publications. Our political correspondent Udi Segal reports:

[Segal] Israel demands that Egypt denounce and curb the savage anti-Israeli incitement in the Egyptian press,

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which started in the wake of the reports on the murder of Egyptian POW's during the 1956 war. [passage omitted]

The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem today reacted sharply to the Egyptian newspaper report about Ambassador Sultan. It is a lie, the product of the sick imagination of a newspaper driven by blind hatred toward Israel, the reaction states. Deputy Foreign Minister Eli Dayan will meet with Egyptian Ambassador Basyuni tomorrow to discuss the grave, mendacious anti-Israeli reports. [passage omitted]

At the beginning of next week, Deputy Foreign Minister Dayan will travel to Egypt to try to calm the storm. [passage omitted]

Officials at Odds Over Interrogation Methods

TA3008084595 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 30 Aug 95 p 7

[Report by Tova Tzimuqi and the military correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Text] A crisis of confidence and sharp confrontation, including mutual recriminations, surfaced yesterday between Shin Bet Chief K. and Attorney General Mikha'el Ben-Ya'ir.

The crisis between the two broke out about a month ago within the framework of the dispute over granting special permission to interrogate, especially "to shake," terrorist suspects. The attorney general opposed the Shin Bet request that shaking be allowed to become a regular feature of interrogations, thereby arousing the ire of the Shin Bet top brass and the prime minister.

The crisis peaked yesterday when the two exchanged indirect accusations, which were preceded by a radio report that the Ministerial Committee on the Shin Bet was canceled after the organization was granted permission to carry out "exhaustive interrogations." The attorney general sent a letter to the Shin Bet head protesting that his organization had deliberately leaked the report.

In his reply to Ben-Ya'ir, the Shin Bet head said: "I was shocked to receive your letter, which clearly implies that the Shin Bet leaked the report to the media that the ministerial committee was canceled after it was agreed to permit the Shin Bet to use coercive interrogation methods."

The Shin Bet head added: "I flatly deny your accusation, which is baseless and was done without any attempt on your part to clarify the facts with me. One would have thought that prior to writing a letter with such wide distribution the attorney general would have acted to clarify the matter, as I did in our telephone discussion immediately after receiving your letter."

The Shin Bet head referred in his letter to what he called "the specific directives of the prime minister and the justice minister, which totally bind me, to avoid the media on the issue. That is why I did not respond to the reports which slander and blemish me personally. As we said in the exchange of letters between us at yesterday's cabinet meeting, a major effort is required to mend the breaches between the legal system and the Shin Bet, which I believe is vital for the sake of Israel's security, and is not a matter of personal or organizational prestige. It is a pity that in your letter you did not act in that spirit."

Copies of the letter were sent to the prime minister; the ministers of justice, police, and the environment; the prime minister's military secretary; the state prosecutor; and the head of the Justice Ministry unit which questions policemen.

The attorney general refused to comment on yesterday's exchange of letters.

Activist Gets 'Severe' Restrictive Army Order

TA3008121395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Hebron Police today served No'am Federman with a three-month restriction order issued by the Central Command chief.

Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that the restriction order is a particularly severe one. It forbids Federman from leaving the vicinity of his home in Hebron or the Qiryat Arba' area without a permit, and bans him from entering or staying in the vicinity of the Cave of the Patriarchs. He has been ordered to report twice a day to the city police station and to remain behind closed doors between 2000 and 0400 every day.

Our correspondent reports that Federman was in the Jerusalem area this morning, and the police handed the order to his wife.

Federman has announced that he does not intend to obey the restriction order.

Arab Woman Attempts To Stab Jerusalem Policeman

TA3008173095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] There was another attempt to stab a policeman near the house of Ari'el Sharon in Jerusalem's Old City. An Arab woman, a 43-year-old resident of Bayt Hanina, pulled out a kitchen knife when

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Border Police officers at the site asked her to identify herself. No one was hurt. Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that the police officers overpowered the woman and took her in for questioning.

Three Arabs Slightly Wounded in Clash With IDF

TA3008184995 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 30 Aug 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] In Nabulus today, there was a violent clash between IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers and local residents. The incident started when a youth threw a rock at an IDF patrol passing the central city square. The soldiers grabbed the boy, and a large crowd gathered and started pelting the soldiers with rocks. The soldiers fired tear gas at the rioters, and three Palestinians were lightly wounded.

Golan Council Reports 'Mass Influx of Newcomers'

TA3108084795 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 31 Aug 95 p 2

[Report by David Rudge]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Scores of families have moved into homes on the Golan Heights in the past few months, giving an added boost to the region's naturally expanding Jewish population. Golan regional council officials revealed yesterday that 120 families have been absorbed onto the Golan in the past two months alone. This is in addition to the mass influx of newcomers to Qatzrin, which has experienced a population boom in the past 12 months and where there is a six-month waiting list for some rental housing.

The council officials said that despite any uncertainties over the long-term future of the region, people were still coming to live on the Golan while existing residents showed no signs of leaving. Golan regional council chairman Yehuda Wolman said they were optimistic that the number of new families coming to live in the region, apart from Qatzrin itself, would top the 1,000 mark within a year.

Wolman said that the regional council was continuing to develop and expand existing infrastructure and increase work places, particularly in industry, tourism and agriculture, to meet the newcomers' needs. These plans will go ahead regardless of any possible attempts by government ministries to block expansion and development, he vowed.

"Any government which places a question mark over the (future development) of the Golan will find itself in a position of lacking hegemony," said Wolman.

Wolman said the regional council had completed preparations for the start of the new school year, and that the statistics also showed a natural increase in the population.

He noted that nearly 2,900 children would be starting and resuming studies with the beginning of the new school year tomorrow — an overall increase of six percent compared to last year. The increase in students at high schools and junior high schools was even greater, at 25%, he said.

Meanwhile, officials of the Qatzrin local council noted that the population had increased by around 850 people in the past 12 months.

Daniyela Sha'ul, spokesperson for the council, said that all new homes had been sold and there was a waiting list of people wishing to rent two and three-bedroom homes in the public housing sector. Rental housing in the private sector was virtually non-existent, she added.

Shahaq Vows Continued 'War' Against Hizballah

TA3008171695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1505 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Lieutenant General Amnon Shahaq, chief of staff, has said that the past two weeks were difficult for Hizballah and that their intensive firing at the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] posts is a result of the pressure they are under.

[Begin Shahaq recording] In several recent incidents, some of which we initiated and some they, Hizballah sustained quite a large number of casualties. I believe they are very bothered by this and are looking for ways to retaliate or increase the tension.

I said this a long time ago, and I will repeat: In Lebanon, a kind of war is taking place between us and Hizballah. This war will continue; it did not start two days ago and will not end in two days. We must be persistent, and we will continue striking at Hizballah anywhere we find it, wherever our intelligence points us, and wherever we come across it. I can only wish that we continue being as efficient as we have been over the past two weeks.

As I said before, the results of the past two weeks are making life for Hizballah very difficult. I assume that, in part, their intensive firing over the past several days — some of which comes from inside villages outside the security zone — at IDF and mainly SLA [South Lebanese Army] posts is due to the pressure Hizballah is under. It wants to attain some goals which, I believe, are mainly to serve as moral boosters for its own men and the local population. We will try, as much as we can, to prevent it from gaining any edge in this matter. [end recording]

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The chief of staff spoke to our correspondent Karmela Menashe after attending a ceremony marking the end of a course at the Staff and Command College.

Efrat Rabbi Interviewed on Peace Process Protests

TA3108084995 (Internet) IRIS in English 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The following is the text of a brief interview that was conducted recently with Rabbi Shlomo Riskin, Chief Rabbi of Efrat and former rabbi of Lincoln Square Synagogue in New York. The interview was conducted and made available by Dr. Aaron Lerner [Dr. Aaron Lerner is an associate of Independent Media Review & Analysis of Kfar Saba, Israel]

In recent months Rabbi Shlomo Riskin has taken an active role in protest activity against the Oslo process. Some activists note that Rabbi Riskin, who has in the past not ruled out territorial compromise, took a leadership role in the protest movement only after the future of Efrat, his home, was put into question by the Rabin government's attitude towards construction on land within Efrat's boundaries.

IMRA [Independent Media Review and Analysis] spoke with Rabbi Riskin on Tuesday, August 29, at a rally in Jerusalem which marked the end a 7 day protest fast which he participated in.

IMRA: There are reports today that prime minister Yitzhak Rabin has written that he plans for Israel to permanently retain Efrat. Will this affect your participation in the protest movement?

Riskin: Not in the least. The issue is not just Efrat. For example, the planned withdrawal of the IDF from the cities in Judea and Samaria effects the security of the entire country and not just Efrat.

IMRA: Several sources claim that at the start of the Oslo process, Yitzhaq Rabin promised, at a closed meeting with representatives of the religious kibbutz movement and others, that the Etzion Bloc would remain under Israeli control under any future agreement with the Palestinians. Some of those who participated in the meeting have refuse to join in protest activities against Rabin because of this guaranty. What do you feel about this position?

Riskin: I reject this position. The issue today is not the disposition of the Etzion Bloc but rather the very survival of the State of Israel.

IMRA: Have you exploited your American citizenship and status overseas to get better treatment by the Israeli police and courts?

Riskin: I never exploited my American citizenship. I never asked to be released from jail. I believe in civil disobedience and I have no problem being arrested and spending time in jail. When I went to sit at Givat Hadagan I went without my American passport. After I was arrested it later developed that there was strong worldwide protest calling for my release but this was not at my initiative. Again — I was more than willing to stay in jail. As for my citizenship: I am an Israeli citizen, thank God.

Commentator Attacks Rabin's 'Leftward' Policy Turn

TA3008110395 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV (HAYOM supplement) in Hebrew 30 Aug 95 p 2

[Commentary by Yosef Harif: "Rabin's Red Lines"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yitzhaq Rabin's "hawkish" statement to 10 Labor Knesset members, who had come to complain that under his leadership the party has turned leftward to the point of blurring the differences between it and Meretz, is astonishing.

Rabin told the meeting that prior to negotiations on the permanent settlement with the Palestinians, the party will have to decide on its red lines, from which it will not budge. He said that he will insist that the Jordan Rift Valley constitute the State of Israel's border and the same goes for the 'Etzyon Bloc.

That might sound reassuring to those who remain loyal to the idea of territorial compromise, which defined Labor policy, but it does not guarantee that these "red lines" will be implemented.

There was a time when Rabin was considered the model of credibility, which was his electoral asset to the party, compared to Shim'on Peres, who for some reason was seen as lacking credibility. But how is Rabin different from Peres today? There also seems to be no striking difference between him and Yosi Sarid. The only difference is that Rabin refers to "a Palestinian entity" while Sarid talks about "a Palestinian state."

From that point of view, Rabin's latest disclosures about the need to adhere to red lines prior to the permanent settlement sound like a return to his old credo, except that some of his 10 listeners claimed that they are still wary of what they called the "ambiguity" in Rabin's remarks. It should be said that they have a discerning ear since his remarks were ambiguous—and not by coincidence. What Rabin said was that in his view the Jordan Rift Valley must remain the security border. That is still not evidence that he will insist that the Jordan Rift Valley and the 'Etzyon Bloc be annexed to Israel and constitute part of its sovereign territory.

Anybody listening to what Rabin had to say about the substance of the desired arrangement for the Golan

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Heights might have been convinced that his opposition to a full withdrawal from the plateau even during peace time is a red line, while the outcome is still unknown. He is using the same argument for the Jordan Rift Valley. Can anybody say with certainty that Rabin's opinion is what in the future will decide the substance of the permanent settlement? It is hard to make such a promise in view of our experience up to now.

We can imagine how the dispute inside Labor will run if it is returned to power and negotiates the permanent settlement. Minister Yosi Beilin, one of the architects of the Oslo Accords, contributed to design of that accord more than Yitzhaq Rabin did. It therefore pays to recall Dr. Beilin's remarks about Rabin's red lines on the Jordan Rift Valley. In November 1993 Beilin appeared in the U.S. media and stipulated: "Israel will continue to exist even without the Jordan Rift Valley. The Jordan River has more symbolic than security value."

That will also be the argument over Yitzhaq Rabin's positions. What red line are you talking about, the various Beilins will ask Rabin (and it would be no exaggeration to assume that Peres' position will be closer to that of Beilin....) and if the Jordan River is only "symbolic" and does not have security value, will we miss the opportunity for full peace because of it? At the very least, Peres, the master diplomat and compromiser, will come up with the magic formula for Rabin: The Jordan Rift Valley will be considered Palestinian sovereignty, but the Israeli settlements will remain there under the auspices of the Palestinian entity. Peres has already explained that just as there are Arab settlements in Israel, there can be Israeli settlements in the Palestinian entity.

And what about security? We can always call on the idea of joint Israeli-Palestinian patrols. If that model is good security-wise for the interim arrangement and "proves itself," then why — there will be those who will claim — can it not be implemented also under the permanent settlement?

If Rabin denies these assessments, why should he be ambiguous? The impression gained is that Rabin is experiencing the same discomfort over the Oslo B accord others in his party feel. That is apparently why it was decided to be tough over Jericho and three Palestinian offices in East Jerusalem, and to use resolute language on the negotiations for the permanent settlement in 1997. This is an election exercise aimed at persuading the public that the main battle — standing firm over "red lines," in Rabin's words — will take place over the permanent settlement. Anybody who thinks we should now discuss what will happen in 1997 is not necessarily showing fortitude. On the contrary, it is an expression of weakness by somebody uncertain that the public is overly keen on the product known as Oslo B where most of the red lines have already been broken through.

Commentary: Rabin, Peres 'Frightened for Their Lives'

TA3108085095 (Internet) Judean Voice in English 30 Aug 95

[Unattributed report: "Rabin and Peres Scared"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] According to an article in YEDI'OT AHRONOT, Aug. 30, 1995, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres have beefed up their own personal security for fear of becoming the targets of potential Jewish assassins. The headline story written by Nahum Barne'a turns into a commentary piece with Barne'a attempting to manipulate public opinion against the "right".

Barne'a goes on to explain how the Shin Bet, Israel's Secret Service must now divert funds and energy away from their campaign against the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in order to secure the safety of Yitzhaq Rabin and other leftist extremist politicians who have been labeled "traitors" and "murderers" by grass roots demonstrators throughout Israel.

Barne'a and the Leftist politicians are appealing to the right- wing leadership to speak out against the harsh criticism of Rabin and Peres. Bibi Netanyahu and other opposition leaders have repeatedly called upon the demonstrators to tone down their actions and words.

In the meantime, Mabat Television news and the Israeli radio are preparing to air explosive interviews with Binyamin Ze'ev Kahana the leader of the outlawed Kahana Hay movement. Kahana has already been quoted on Israeli radio and TV today saying that he "hopes someone puts Rabin and the other murderous traitors out of their misery". Kahana said that he personally was not involved and knows of no plots against Rabin, reiterating his commitment not to violate Israeli law. Kahana is out on bail pending an appeal against a four and a half month prison term for demonstrating against the "peace" process. Judean Voice Commentary:

Rabin and Peres are frightened for their lives like most dictators who refuse to allow their people to express themselves democratically. Rabin and Peres watch the faces of the protestors who stand on every intersection in Israel at spontaneous demonstrations and who call them traitors and murderers. They are restricted from appearing publicly for security reasons. They see how hated they are by the average Israeli in the street and they are frightened to death. Now the people of Israel

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are not the only ones frightened to walk the streets of Israel freely. Rabin and Peres seem to have a taste of the fear that every Jewish mother has when she sends her children on a bus in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.

And so Rabin's governmnet wants to take action but they don't know what they can do. They can't arrest everyone in the streets, although G-d knows they have tried every other method to disperse them, and nothing seems to work. The water cannons, batons, horses, tear gas and false arrests have not deterred the protesters. They must find a scapegoat quickly and take out their wrath upon him in the hope that this will frighten others from taking action. Foolish dictators usually do irrational things in their desperate fight to stay alive and break their widespread opposition.

They plan to make Kahana the scapegoat. What it is that they have planned., I don't know. However, I know how they work. If they give Kahana prime time on TV and radio, they want to trap him into saying something which will justify their next step. Will it be another wave of administrative detentions and arrests without trial? Will it be incitement to cause physical harm against Kahana? They will continue to attempt to divide and conquer the right by getting the moderate Yesha movement and Likud to continue to ostracize and demonize Kahana and the Zo Artzenu [This Is Our Land] movement. The left can succeed only if the right is divided. The left can succeed only when voices such as Kahana and Zo Artzenu are effectively suppressed. The left often gets the right to do their dirty work for them. Instead of the right standing tall and saying Kahana and Zo Artzenu have every right to speak freely, the right jumps on the bandwagon prepared and orchestrated by the leftist media to destroy Kahana and the last pocket of real Jewish resistance to the madness in Israel.

Foolish dictators, the more they attack Kahana the more they will build him into a martyr and an alternative to the Rabin government. Despite the fact that Kahana has been careful not to violate the law or say things which can be considered illegal, he is clearly the most probable scapegoat.

Economic Cooperation To Increase With Brazil

TA2908100495 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 29 Aug 95 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israel and Brazil will increase economic cooperation, according to a decision reached today [28 August] during a meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Luiz Felipe Lampreia, who arrived accompanied by a group of businessmen who are looking for joint investment opportunities with Israeli industry.

Lampreia brought Rabin a letter from Brazil's president inviting him to visit the country, and expressing his desire to strengthen ties between Brazil and Israel, and to find additional spheres for cooperation.

As a sign of strengthening ties, visits by Brazil's ministers of education, trade, science and technology are expected. Tomorrow [29 August], Rabin will host Brazil's defense minister.

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Columnist Questions Reasons for U.S. Maneuvers

JN3008164495 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 30 Aug 95 p 17

["Face to Face" column by 'Awn Sadiq: "Do We Still Have the Right To Ask Questions?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] We realize that the United States is now the main friend and ally of the Arab countries, and their partner in everything. We realize that the time has gone forever when dealing with the United States was considered suspicious or a cause for accusations. We also realize that those who refuse what the United States decides for them will find themselves in trouble and will get only what they do not want.

We realize all this. We also realize that the United States has turned Iraq, which has suffered much and is facing many tribulations, into an ogre with which it scares the countries in the region, and which it uses as an excuse to implement all the treacherous schemes it has against the region and its future. We realize this, and do not object to it. The United States acts to serve its interests. We also may not object to Arab countries which view the United States as their closest friend or their strongest ally because, according to what they believe, this will help them safeguard the interests of their people, and promote their prosperity and stability.

But with the pervasion of a (manifestation) in the region that can no longer be justified, we want to ask one question. We hope the democratic trend in our country still allows us the right to ask questions if only for the purpose of understanding, and this is certainly a legitimate thing to do. The question we want answered by those who can answer it is a very simple one: If Iraq has become the ogre of the region, yet Rolf Ekeus on the basis of experts opinion announced a few days ago that Iraq can no longer threaten anyone in the region, then why is the manifestation of joint maneuvers between the United States and countries in the region spreading and against whom?

I apologize if such a question denotes naivete. The region is full of naive people, who have the right to understand or at least ask questions. Some hear others say that the joint U.S. maneuvers in the Arab region are a means to keep the region under U.S. control, to use the region as a field for testing new U.S. weapons that are being developed, to market weapons which have become outdated, to provide U.S. military experts and advisers with jobs, or to maintain the control on oil, the most important energy source in the world. Some also say all this opens new markets for U.S. products.

As for myself, I cannot decide on any of these reasons. The above reasons used to be true when the United States was viewed as the Arab nation's primary enemy. But now that it has become the Arab nation's principal friend, things are different.

Energy Minister's Visit To Iraq Postponed

JN3108085495 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 31 Aug-1 Sep 95 p 1, 19

[Report by Nasir 'Arif]

[FBIS Translated Text] A scheduled visit to Iraq by Samih Darwazah, minister of energy and mineral resources, has been postponed. The aim of the visit was to conclude a new contract with the Iraqi Government on oil supplies to Jordan after the expiry of the previous contract between the two countries.

The Jordanian delegation, headed by Darwazah and comprising representatives from the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources and the Jordanian Petroleum Refinery, was scheduled to hold talks with Iraqi officials on renewing a contract on supplying Jordan with Iraqi oil and oil derivatives during the next year. Iraqi oil supplies to Jordan stand at 75,000 barrels per day.

Government sources refused to give reasons for the postponement of the visit. They would only say that a new date of the visit will be announced later following coordination between the two countries.

The same sources reiterated that the recent developments in Iraq have not affected Iraqi oil supplies to Jordan as these supplies continue to flow as they have in the past.

[Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic on 31 August reports that Darwazah "canceled a very important visit to Iraq," scheduled before Husayn Kamil's defection to Jordan. It adds that Darwazah "was waiting for a green light from the government to pay the visit, but the government turned down an invitation extended to him by his Iraqi counterpart to visit Baghdad."]

Trade Minister Makes Official Visit to Syria

JN2708091095 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Engineer 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib, minister of industry and trade, left Amman for Damascus this morning on an official visit to the Syrian Arab Republic that will last for several days. Abu-al-Raghib will head the Jordanian delegation to the meetings of the Jordanian-Syrian Joint Trade Committee scheduled to open later today.

The committee will discuss means of enhancing and upgrading trade relations between the two sisterly countries and will revise the trade protocols and minutes

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signed between them with the aim of facilitating the flow of commercial commodities between the two countries.

During his visit to Damascus, the minister will attend the inauguration of the Damascus International Fair.

Foreign Minister Receives PLO's Qaddumi

JN3008174295 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti received in his office today Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department. During the meeting, al-Kabariti reiterated Jordan's support for the Palestinian National Authority and called for a united Palestinian stand in support of the Palestinian negotiator. On his part, Qaddumi rejected division and stressed the need to maintain the unity of the PLO to achieve the Palestinian national objectives and establish an independent Palestinian state.

Crown Prince Receives Moroccan King's Adviser

JN3008171195 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1600 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Earlier today, Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, received at the Royal Court Special Adviser to Moroccan King Hassan II Mr. (Andre Oslay). The regent underlined the significance of cooperation between Amman and Rabat to draw up future visions for the forthcoming development projects in the region. His royal highness pointed out that the upcoming economic summit in Amman would rehabilitate the economy of the Mideast and North Africa to the benefit of the peoples of the whole region that suffered a lot because of wars and struggle. He also spoke about the new humanitarian order based on the project of values, which respects man and works for the elimination of differences between peoples.

On his part, the visiting Moroccan envoy stressed the importance of coordination between the two countries in this stage, during which the region is witnessing rapid changes and developments. He said his country is ready to offer its vast experience to Jordan as Amman is preparing itself for holding the Middle East and North Africa development conference. He said the Casablanca summit was the outset and the Amman conference is the basis and a firm step to rehabilitate the economy of the entire region.

King Receives Message From Afghan President

JN2908195895 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] His Majesty issued his directives to find means to boost cooperation with Afghanistan in all fields.

The pledge came after the king had received the message from Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani. The message was conveyed by the visiting Afghan minister of tourism and aviation.

It included a hope for enhancing bilateral cooperation in the field of tourism and aviation.

Aviation Agreement Signed

JN3108074695 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1405 GMT 30 Aug 95

[From the "Economic Bulletin" program]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A memorandum of understanding was signed between Jordan and Afghanistan in the fields of air transport and civil aviation. The memorandum regulates cooperation and coordination between the two countries in these fields. The memorandum was signed for the Jordanian side by Ahmad Juwaybir, director general of the Civil Aviation Authority, and for the Afghan side by Dr. 'Abdol Rahman, minister of tourism and civil aviation in Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

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Al-Hariri Denies Reports on Ministers' Resignation

NC3008120695 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The subject of satellite transmission gained prominence today and created confusion in media circles. These circles went so far as to predict the government's resignation over this matter. This prompted Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri to deny such reports and confirm that the government has no intention to resign. In an informal discussion with reporters at the Presidential Palace, he said the topic of satellite transmission has been given much greater attention than it deserves and that discussion of this topic has been exaggerated. Asked about reports regarding the possible resignation of a number of ministers during the Council of Ministers session today, Prime Minister al-Hariri affirmed that he does not expect such a thing to happen.

Leading Sunni 'Fundamentalist' Killed in Beirut

NC3108083095 Paris AFP in English 0746 GMT 31 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut, Aug 31 (AFP)—A leading Sunni Moslem fundamentalist, Shaykh Nizar Halabi, was shot dead in front of his house in the Lebanese capital on Thursday [31 August], police said.

His 12-year-old son Bilal was seriously wounded along with Halabi's driver and a bodyguard. Earlier reports said two sons were hurt. Police said three gunmen on board a white Mercedes drove up to the house in the al-Tariq al-Jadidah district. One of the assailants stepped out and opened fire with a machine-gun.

Shaykh Halabi was a leader of the al-Ahbash religious sect which won two seats in parliamentary elections in 1992.

Nasrallah on U.S. Call for Disarming 'Resistance'

NC3108110295 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 31 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Hizballah has commemorated the 17th anniversary of the disappearance of Imam Musa al-Sadr [former Higher Islamic Shiite Council chairman] and his two aides at a grand ceremony in al-Zahra' Mosque in the Ziqaq al-Balat area of Beirut. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah said that the main concern of the U.S. envoys is disarming the Lebanese Resistance, noting that the U.S. envoys hear good words from certain Lebanese officials on this issue. He said this suggests everything in Lebanon is alright and there are no economic, social, political, or administrative problems. [passage omitted] His eminence said: [Begin Nasrallah recording] Resistance to his eminence Imam Musa al-Sadr was a basic factor and thus he called on Lebanese youths to join training camps and urged the Lebanese Government, which these days the Americans are demanding that....[pauses]. U.S. envoys are coming and going. What do they want? Lebanon's problems have not yet been solved. They behave as if all Lebanon's problems have been solved. They behave as if there is no poverty, starvation, economic, or social problems, and as if the regime could not possibly be better. They think that the only problem in Lebanon is the Resistance weapons and that Lebanon must disarm the Resistance in order to become a civilized country acceptable to the United States.

The Americans are demanding that the Lebanese Government disarm the Resistance and they hear good words from certain Lebanese officials about this issue. [Words indistinct] More than 20 years ago, Imam Musa al-Sadr demanded that the Lebanese Government arm the people of south Lebanon and western al-Biqa' to defend themselves against the Israeli aggression. [passage omitted] [end recording]

SLA's Lahd, Israel's Lubrani Comment on South

NC3108103895 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0700 GMT 31 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the border area, South Lebanese Army [SLA] Commander Major General Antoine Lahd stated: We did not bring Israel into this area; the Lebanese State sold the land to Palestinians and brought Israel onto our land. He added: We are part of the Lebanese State and we will only accept this even though they admit this [as heard]. He said: Regrettably, the Lebanese Government has no say and is merely a figurehead.

Discussing the economy, Maj. Gen. Lahd said Lebanese officials, particularly Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, behave as if peace will be established tomorrow. He said Lebanese officials have borrowed funds on this basis. He noted that peace will not be established soon, adding that all the debts will be paid by the Lebanese people in the form of new taxes and fees. He said a government that behaves like this will not succeed or be a government in the full sense of the word.

Discussing so-called acts of Resistance and the accusation that Israel is against peace, Maj. Gen. Lahd asked if acts of sabotage by saboteurs and those who stand behind them serve the cause of peace. He stressed that the Syrians do not want peace and that the Lebanese officials are not to blame, because they have no say, since it is Syria that decides on things for Lebanon. He said Syria believes that if it signs a peace agreement,

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it will lose more than if it does not sign. He said that even the United States refuses to accept the conditions Syria is setting in the peace negotiations. Should Syria regain the Golan Heights through peace, it would lose Lebanon, he said, and asked who would substitute the Golan for Lebanon.

Speaking at the inauguration of a new security agency building in al-Khiyam, Maj. Gen. Lahd said cooperation and cohesion among SLA personnel and the security agencies and civilians will ensure peace and security in this area and will make them an integrated and strong front that no one can break. He stressed that the SLA is much stronger than some people think, particularly those who have ulterior motives. He stressed that time will prove this fact. He emphasized that the tasks of the security agencies are sometimes more difficult than those of soldiers, because security agency personnel have a closer relationship with civilians.

Maj. Gen. Lahd recalled that while people in the area north of the border strip were being killed according to the information on their identity cards, the people in the border strip lived in peace and prosperity. Concluding, he vowed that the SLA will not abandon the people now or in the post-peace era. He said this applies to the Israelis, noting that Israeli promises are not a sham.

The inauguration ceremony was also attended by Uri Lubrani, coordinator of Israeli activities in Lebanon; the liaison unit commander, Gen. 'Inbari, senior SLA officers, liaison unit officers, and various personalities from the border strip from al-Naqurah to Shab'a and Jazzin.

In a statement at the ceremony, Lubrani stressed that the Israeli presence in this area has one goal—ensuring peace and security. He said: We have never considered staying on Lebanese territory indefinitely; we are here temporarily to guarantee peace in the area and ward off disaster and tribulation from the area and north Israel. He said the area encountered numerous acts of aggression but the source of these acts was not inside Lebanon; it was outside, aiming to disturb life and peace. He said: We will stay with you as long as peace does not prevail in the region. He added: We have the patience and force to enable us to repulse any attempt aimed at disturbing security, tranquility, and normal life. He said: Israel and the border area have a common goal of making the area open to everyone and in every direction. [passage omitted]

Asked a question by our correspondent at a news conference after the ceremony, Lubrani said he does not rule out a major military operation against saboteurs, adding that such a decision can only be made at the proper time and after all other means have been exhausted. He said the possibility of a major military operation is certainly in the cards, noting that Israel will not be late in retaliating for any attack. [passage omitted]

Overnight Israeli Activities, Overflights Reported

NC3108071895 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 31 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Reports from south Lebanon this morning say guarded calm prevails in all the areas near the occupied border strip after sporadic acts of aggression during the night against the al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah areas. Last night enemy forces pounded Kafra, Yatar, Haris, 'Ayta al-Jabal, Haddatha, Bra'shit, Mashgharah, Shaqra, the outskirts of al-Jumjumah, Majdal Silm, Qabrikha, al-Tamiriyah, Tulin, and Wadi Jumjumah.

This morning the Amal Movement claimed responsibility for several attacks on enemy positions last night. It said its fighters attacked Rshaf, Humayd, Haddatha, and Bra'shit. It said clashes took place between the attackers and the men at these positions but the losses are unknown because of the fierce bombardment and the Israeli forces' raking of the areas around these positions.

At dawn today the Israeli forces bombarded the villages of al-Mansuri, Majdal Zun, and Zibqin.

Reports from western al-Biqa' say the Israeli army and the collaborating militia [South Lebanese Army, SLA] announced maximum alert among their forces on the eastern sector front. They reinforced their positions in this sector with 175-mm artillery pieces and 10 armored vehicles, including seven Merkava tanks. These reinforcements were deployed on the hills overlooking Hasbayya and the western al-Biqa' areas.

The Israeli forces also pounded the outskirts of Yatar and the adjacent valleys. The shelling reached the Abu Rashid woods, Jabal al-Qatranah, al-Surayrah, the Lusi farm, the outskirts of Maydun and Qilya, and the Mashgharah hills. Some 45 shells fell in these areas, causing several fires.

Israeli military aircraft, helicopters, and MK [Knesset members] reconnaissance planes overflew the Iqlim al-Tuffah and al-Nabtiyah areas, concentrating on the al-Litani River basin, Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, Yuhmur, al-Shaqif, and Mazra'at al-Hamra'.

The Islamic Resistance and the Israeli forces and the SLA militia exchanged artillery and rocket fire in the eastern sector. The Islamic Resistance targeted Taw'amat Niha, Kafr Huna, and the SLA barracks in al-Rayhan and al-'Ayshiyah.

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Envoy to Tehran Denies U.S. Claims of 'Terrorism'

NC3008210995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1750 GMT 30 Aug 95

[Interview with Ahmad al-Hasan, ambassador to Iran, by correspondent Jihad al-'Idan in Tehran; date not given: from the "News and Reports" feature — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-'Idan] Mr. al-Hasan: THE WASHINGTON POST reports that the United States sent a message to Syria holding it responsible for the threats to U.S. citizens—which it described as terrorist—made by Palestinians and Lebanese. What is your response to this accusation?

[Al-Hasan] As for the accusation that Syria sponsors such acts, we first of all deny it. Those Palestinian organizations opposed to the peace process which are located in Damascus struggle peacefully and carry out absolutely no military acts. They have a right to engage in this peaceful struggle as long as Israel does not give the Palestinians their rights and the Oslo Accord does not meet the aspirations of the Palestinian people. Thus, any Palestinian has a right to oppose this accord for failing to meet his legitimate aspirations and restore his usurped land.

Therefore, the Palestinian organizations in Damascus oppose the peace process in a peaceful manner; and that is their right. They have not carried out any military acts. Naturally they are not permitted to carry out military acts from Syrian territory, because this would violate our sovereignty.

As far as U.S. interests on Syrian territory are concerned, Syria is responsible for those interests; and they have not come under any threats or been targeted by any other action. But if someone outside Syria comes out and says that U.S. interests are being threatened, Syria is not responsible for protecting the U.S. interests. Syria has responsibility only for its own territory and borders. Syria is not responsible for what happens to U.S. or other interests outside its territory. Thus, we reject any accusations against Syria regarding such acts; they are absolutely unacceptable.

[Al-'Idan] What does the U.S. Administration seek by these accusations?

[Al-Hasan] I do not know. We cannot take everything published in the papers as reflecting the opinions of official quarters. I doubt that the United States would send such a message to Syria, because basically Syria absolutely does not tolerate threats or extortion by any party whatsoever, be it America or any other country.

As I have mentioned, Israel is the one primarily responsible for terrorism in the region. Israel has made no concessions to the oppressed people or to those deprived of their rights and has not offered them anything that could end the injustice they feel. Thus, neither Syria, Iran, nor any other country, and not even the Palestinian resistance should be held responsible for terrorism. Responsibility falls primarily on Israel. If the United States has anybody to blame, it is Israel; it is not Syria, the Palestinian or Islamic resistance, or Iran that must be blamed. That is because Israel is responsible for encouraging terrorism by occupying the territory and usurping the rights of others. Accordingly, the others have a right to struggle by any means to restore their rights and end the injustice against them.

[Al-'Idan] Suppose this is true; do you believe this is part of the United Sates' attempt to pressure Syria over the peace process?

[Al-Hasan] There is no doubt that pressure, both direct and indirect, is being put on Syria to make concessions, but Syria will never abandon its principles or rights. As I already mentioned, the pressure must be put on the other side, not Syria, which is committed to the peace process, remains sincere, and believes that peace is a strategic option. It is the other side—Israel—that is obstructing the peace talks. Thus, the blame must be put on Israel, not Syria. No one has a right to make accusations against Syria, Iran, or some other country for sympathizing with the Palestinian people or the Islamic and national resistance, which is legitimately seeking to restore its rights.

[Al-'Idan] Thank you, Ambassador al-Hasan.

[Al-Hasan] You are welcome.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Arrives With Message

JN3008175395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived in Damascus this afternoon on a visit to Syria.

He was welcomed at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', a number of senior Foreign Ministry officials, the Kuwaiti ambassador in Damascus, and the Kuwaiti Embassy staff.

In a statement to a SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY, SANA, correspondent, Shaykh al-Sabah expressed pleasure for visiting Damascus. He said His Highness Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait, had asked him to convey messages to President Hafiz al-Asad,

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Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, and King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, dealing with Arab developments and events as well as consultations between his highness the amir and his brother leaders in Damascus, Cairo, and the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states.

He said that these states are considered partners of the GCC. During this visit he will hold talks with Syrian officials on the Arab situation, the current circumstances in the region, and consultations between the two countries.

Received by al-Asad

JN3008182595 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and his delegation at the People's Palace at 1800 today. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Kuwaiti Ambassador in Damascus Ibrahim al-Musa.

Shaykh Sabah delivered to the president a message from Kuwait Amir His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah. Talks dealt with developments in the region.

Departs After Brief Visit

JN3008190395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Damascus this evening following a brief visit to Syria.

He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', a number of senior Foreign Ministry officials, and the Kuwaiti ambassador in Damascus.

Shaykh al-Sabah made a statement to a Syrian Arab News Agency, SANA, correspondent. He said: During this visit, I had the honor of meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad and handing him a message from Kuwaiti Amir His Highness Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah.

He added: I listened to his excellency's views on the latest developments and the regional situation. I also listened to the views of the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd- al-'Aziz, and His Excellency Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. I will convey all these views to his highness the amir of Kuwait. We will hold constant contacts because we are partners in good and bad times.

Prime Minister Receives Saudi Commerce Minister

JN3008120695 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received Saudi Commerce Minister Usamah Bin-Ja'far al-Faqih this morning. The meeting was attended by Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade. Discussions dealt with existing trade cooperation between the two sisterly countries.

Oil Minister Receives Slovak Delegation

JN3108082395 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Engineer Nadir Nabulsi, minister of oil and mineral resources, received Jan Ducky, Slovak minister of economy, and his delegation this evening. The delegation includes senior officials representing Slovak economic and industrial institutions specialized in gas, petroleum, and petrochemicals.

During the meeting, Ducky praised the strong Syrian-Slovak relations of cooperation. He pointed out that his country has a large experience in the field of oil and gas industry, in addition to its experience in exploring and refining oil, establishing modern refineries, and installing gas pipelines. He said his country had laid down a gas pipeline across Europe. The minister expressed his country's readiness to carry out joint projects in Syria and stated his country's need to import Syrian phosphate.

Press Decries Israeli 'Intransigence'

JN3108064695 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 31 Aug 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its commentary, the newspaper AL- THAWRAH deals with the peace process and the available opportunity. It says: Israel's attempts to evade peace and to hold Syria responsible for the stalemate and obstruction of peace have failed, especially since peace can no longer tolerate Israel's games and the evasiveness of its rulers.

The paper calls on the international community to define responsibilities and to impose its legitimacy regarding the peace process in the region. It points out that Israel is the only side which has violated the international legitimacy.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that peace is in the interest of all sides in the region and the world, proceeding from the fact that stability in the most dangerous region must reflect positively on all world peoples.

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AL-THAWRAH says that peace cannot continue to be victim to the Israeli haggling or to the internal elections game in Israel.

AL-THAWRAH believes that there should be a comprehensive international action to restore consideration to the bases of peace, to give impetus to its process, and to subjugate Israel to the bases of justice, comprehensiveness, and international laws.

In another commentary, AL-THAWRAH says: When Syria joined the peace process and accepted the U.S. initiative, Syria did so out of its concern for laying firm pillars for peace in its true and broad meaning, and not to be involved in bargaining over its land and rights, or to accept settlements which encroach on sovereignty and dignity.

AL-THAWRAH calls on Israel to be fully aware of this fact and to realize that Syria, without which peace cannot be achieved, will not relinquish its land and rights.

The newspaper TISHRIN comments on the terroristic and repressive actions Israel has been carrying out against the Arabs. It says: Israel represents the peak of terrorism in the region through its acts of repression, shelling, and terrorism against the Arab citizens in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and southern Lebanon.

TISHRIN adds: For Israel, terrorism is a firm and constant policy. All facts and signs show that Israel's ambitions in the occupation of territory have no limits. The Israeli policy of mass punishment is no more than part of a strategy based on murder, arrest, expulsion, the closure and siege of entire areas, and starving out Arab citizens. In addition to the aforementioned, Syria, while exposing these Israeli practices and policies, reiterates its commitment to the pillars of a just and comprehensive peace which put an end to the lust of terrorism and occupation, and which are based on true and serious implementation of the resolutions of the international legitimacy, which call for the termination of occupation through Israel's full withdrawal from the Golan.

TISHRIN says: Syria cannot be taken by surprise. All pressures cannot affect its stand which guarantees Arab rights or its sound policy.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: While assuming national and pan-Arab responsibilities with confidence and competence, Syria reiterates that peace has always been and will continue to be its strategic option.

AL-BA'TH writes on the current situation of the peace process in the region in light of the intransigence of Israel's stand which evades the requirements of a just and comprehensive peace.

It says: If the peace process is dying, Israel's rulers shall be fully responsible for this. The U.S. cosponsor, which maintains special relations with Israel, should have a great responsibility toward saving the peace process and preventing its collapse.

The paper believes that Washington is more capable than any other side of persuading Israel's rulers and obligating them to its initiative and its bases. In this regard, the paper says: The side which supported Israel and was behind its supremacy, existence, and survival, should have the ability to direct it toward the peace process which it wanted for the parties in the region.

Concluding its editorial, AL-BA'TH says: There will be no peace with hesitation and free play, no peace with the option for war and aggression, and security and stability cannot be achieved in this part of the world except through a just and comprehensive peace.

Radio Reiterates Position on Middle East Peace

JN3008192295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1142 GMT 30 Aug 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear listeners: The Israeli leaders are aware that peace is impossible in the region without Syria. They know that Syria holds the key to peace.

The Syrian position, which adheres to the Arab nation's national and pan-Arab rights, substantially conflicts with the Israeli ambitions regarding the peace process. The kind of peace Syria wants stems from international legitimacy and gives everyone his dues while preserving the Arab dignity and maintaining the Arab role in the region and in the international arena.

The position of al-Asad's Syria stems from national considerations and from the deep belief in the Arab nation's ability to confront challenges. It also stems from the deep belief that the Arab nation cannot accept or sell out its status and cultural role in drawing the future picture of our world.

Syria considers the future in the same way it considers the present. From this premise, Syria is interested in securing rights and sovereignty, so they can serve as the basis for any balanced and effective Syrian role. There will be no peace without regaining the territories and rights and without a balanced [mutawazin] commitment to equal [mutasawiyah] security arrangements as part of honoring the bases of peace which is founded

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on the international resolutions and the land-for-peace principle.

Because this is the substance of the peace Syria wants and seeks, Israel has placed obstacles before the entire peace process. Israel wants the type of peace that would allow it to keep the territories while denying the other party its rights and role. In other words, Israel wants the type of peace that would bring the region, its states, peoples, and human and economic resources, under the control of the Zionist plan. This plan aims to impose control, hegemony, and subservience.

Israel realizes that it cannot impose its kind of peace on Syria which adheres to a just and comprehensive peace. Therefore, Israel obstructed the peace negotiations on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks and began to work hard to create new equations in the Arab arena in order to besiege the Syrian position.

However, Israel is committing the same mistake. Since its establishment, Israel has thus far been seeking to weaken, neutralize, and absent the Syrian position, but it has failed. Israel also insists on separate agreements in order to entrench them as an established fact, and consequently to empty the Syrian position of its comprehensive and pan-Arab content.

When Israel realizes that the Syrian position is not only a Syrian but also an Arab position embodying the Arab masses' hopes and aspirations, because it defends the Arabs' rights to territory, dignity, security, and stability—which, in itself, constitutes a demand for an international consensus on the need to search for a true peace that secures the rights of all and serves as a basis for stability and prosperity—Israel will then realize that it is impossible to achieve peace while simultaneously achieving gains and expansion at the expense of others, their territories, and their future.

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India

Chief Minister of Punjab Said Killed in Blast

BK3108131995 Hong Kong AFP in English 1309 GMT 31 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NEW DELHI, Aug 31 — The chief minister of the northern Indian state of Punjab died Thursday [31 August] in a powerful blast in a complex housing the governments of both Punjab and Haryana states, the Press Trust of India said.

Delhi Confirms Minister's Death

BK3108134295 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 31 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Punjab chief minister, Mr. Beant Singh, was killed in a powerful bomb blast in Chandigarh this evening. AIR correspondent reports that the bomb was planted in a government vehicle, which went off at the VIP Gate of the Joint Civil Secretariat of Punjab and Haryana at 1705 [1135 GMT] this evening. The chief minister was leaving the secretariat at that time. Three commandos and at least four others were also killed in the blast. Further details are awaited.

NATO Urged 'To Do More Than Fire' in Bosnia

BK3108041495 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 31 Aug 95

[Commentary by Anuradha M. Chenoy]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Bosnian Serbs' unrelenting offensive against the Bosnian state has at long last provoked a retaliation by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, NATO's, air force. The cite of the attack of the Serb military and heavy weapons installations in and around Sarajevo as well as around Tuzla and Gorazde. [sentence as heard] The major provocation for NATO response is the Serb bomb attack in Sarajevo on Tuesday [29 August] which killed 37 civilians. The NATO, after a prolonged period of waiting and watching, seem to have finally changed its position vis-a-vis this highly one-sided communal and ethnic war. Here, the heavily armed Serbs have let loose their armies on a largely unarmed civilian population. They have attempted to gain as much territory as possible to consolidate for a greater Serbia.

Many solutions and peace plans have been offered to the warring communities; most of these have been rejected. In the meanwhile, the Serbs have taken town after town and ethnically cleansed these of the Muslims. The immensity of the tragedy and human rights violations have been widely reported. The United Nations peacekeeping force has been unable to do its task. This is because the Serbs violated norms of war and attacked even the peacekeepers. The peace force was given a highly restricted mandate which bound its hands from retaliation. The Serbs could, thus, last month attack even the UN protected safe areas of Gorazde and Srebrenica without compunction.

In the face of popular pressure from human rights organizations and other groups, the Western attitude has now changed. The Americans last week proposed a new peace plan especially since the Bosnian Muslims teamed up with the Croats to divide Bosnia- Herzegovina. The Bosnian Muslims refused to discuss the American peace plan if Serb shelling of Sarajevo continued. Obviously, there could be no peace if one side kept up a steady bombardment. When NATO warnings were not heeded and the Serbs exploded yet anther bomb the Bosnian Muslims' pressure worked. If the Americans wanted credibility as peacemakers and as leader of an apparently formidable Western alliance, they would have to act. Is this then going to be the beginning of the end of this four-year carnage, this is what is hoped. But the NATO must be prepared to do more than fire from the safety of the air. Ground forces must be prepared to follow up with action. An incomplete action would not only shame the West and the United Nations but would weaken the fragile peace built on norms of accepted international law.

Daily Says Progress in PRC Ties 'Painfully Slow'

BK3008163795 Madras THE HINDU in English 25 Aug 95 p 8

[Editorial: "Ties with China"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Whatever little movement forward has been achieved in relations with China must be welcomed as India awaits more congenial times for acceleration. Progress in the process of normalisation between the two countries has been painfully slow, particularly in the recent past, the pace apparently dictated as much by the uncertainties in which the evolving political leadership in Beijing is finding itself as by the history of mistrust that has governed bilateral relations in the decades since the tragic encounter in the Himalayas in October-November 1962.

The rather fierce nationalist rhetoric flowing from Beijing, directed at other targets no doubt, and the belligerency in evidence could hardly have provided the most hopeful of backdrops for the two-day meeting of the Joint Working Group [JWG] which ended in Delhi earlier this week. That China should have exploded a nuclear device and launched a series of missile tests on the eve of the group's scheduled meeting would not have gone unnoticed in a country the driving force of whose nuclear policy has been concern over

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China's growing nuclear muscle. India besides, has also been viewing with disquietude Beijing's unconcealed attempts to establish a listening post close to the eastern coast through the sponsorship of the military regime in Myanmar which it had been courting with conspicuous ardour.

Given the declared desire of China for "new progress" in bilateral relations, reiterated as recently as in the middle of last month by its Prime Minister, Mr Li Peng, when the Home Minister, Mr S.B. Chavan, was in Beijing, there must indeed be disappointment in Delhi that the Joint Working Group meeting could not go beyond symbolic gestures. The agreement under which troops will be pulled back" in a step-by-step process" before the year-end from four posts on either side of the border along Arunachal Pradesh has been described by Indian spokesmen as marking a breakthrough in confidence building measures.

As an earnest of the adherence of the two sides to the historic 1993 agreement on peace and tranquillity along the more than 4,000 km long border, the plan for disengagement in a highly sensitive sector was unexceptionable. In fact troop pullback from an interim border resulting "in mutual and equal security" is the key to the agreement. Yet the impression persists that there has been little practical advance in the prolonged discussions between the two countries. There were for example, expressions of optimism on the eve of a meeting of the experts group under the JWG in March that the two countries were about to finalise ways of preventing possible air intrusions across the border. Six months later, details are still being worked out to formalise an arrangement that is said to be already informally in place.

The border dispute apart, one major area of concern to India has been the transfer of Chinese missiles to Pakistan. Given Pakistan's record with the American armaments supplied to it to "fight communism" the Chinese argument that the missile supply will not disturb the regional balance has a familiar ring. Such deadly weaponry in the hands of the military-led government of Ms. Benazir Bhutto can only be a destabilising factor in a region where Pakistan's only target lies across the border.

If China's objective is to use the Pakistani card to serve its strategic purpose, now that relations with the U.S. have deteriorated, it must be apparent that Beijing has not learnt all the lessons from its bitter Cold War experience. In this scenario one is surprised by the revelation that the two countries have decided to discuss "disarmament and security related matters" China may need to demonstrate much more transparency much more compatibility between its words and deeds before the two could launch the search for strategic common ground.

Al-Faran 'Rebels' Reportedly Set New 'Deadline'

BK3108063095 Hong Kong AFP in English 0614 GMT 31 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Srinagar, India, Aug 31 (AFP) — Kashmir Moslem rebels holding four Western set a new Thursday [31 August] deadline for the Indian government to meet their demands, according to sources who said talks were not at a crucial stage.

The Al-Faran group reportedly told negotiators they were unhappy with the government's "delaying tactics" over calls for the release of 15 jailed Moslem separatists.

Sources close to Indian negotiators said the talks have reached a "crucial stage."

But no clear deadline time was given. And the abductors did not renew threats to kill the two Britons, one American and one German they are holding, one source said, recalling previous deadlines which passed without incident.

The group has already beheaded one Norwegian hostage.

Al-Faran has asked the government to say "yes or no" to its demand saying otherwise continuing talks were "a waste of time," one source said quoting the hostage-takers in the negotiations.

"Today's talks will be crucial," another source said, adding the government was awaiting a call from the Al-Faran on a pre-selected radio frequency.

Kashmir administration officials said negotiators told Al-Faran their demands had been conveyed to the government, which directly administers the northern Himalayan state.

An official spokesman only confirmed that the Al-Faran had radioed Indian negotiators late Wednesday. He did not give further details.

The group is holding Britons Paul Wells, 23, and Keith Mangan, 33, German Dirk Hasert,26 and American Donald Hutchings, 42. The four were taken between July 4 and July 8 near the Kashmir trekking resort of Pahalgam.

The guerrillas beheaded Norwegian hostage, Hans-Christian Ostro, 27, in the first week of August and dumped his body.

Hopes of an early end to the crisis appeared to dim because of the "hardening" of the militants stand, army

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sources said in New Delhi. They added that earlier contacts with Al-Faran had been "very positive."

Meanwhile, relatives of the four captives thanked the rebel group Wednesday for not harming the tourists.

"We are grateful to Al-Faran for this humanitarian gesture. It has greatly relieved and comforted us," said the message, issued by the British high commission (embassy) on behalf of the relatives.

"We, the relatives of Don, Dirk, Keith and Paul welcome the news that all four are alive and well. We now loo@ forward to the speedy release of our loved ones," the unsigned statement said.

The joint message was issued after Hutchings spoke by radio to Indian negotiators for the first time on Monday saying he and the others were unharmed.

On Tuesday, the abductors replied to questions on the backgrounds of their hostages to satisfy the Indian authority the four were alive.

Indian authorities say Al-Faran is a front for the Harkatul Ansar group, comprising mainly Afghan guerrillas, which seized two British trekkers last year and released them after 17 days.

More than 12,000 people have died in Kashmir, India's only Moslem-dominated province since 1989 when Moslem separatists stepped up a campaign against Indian rule.

India accuses Pakistan of arming and training the Moslem rebels. Islamabad denies the charge but extends moral and diplomatic support to what it describes as the Kashmiris' legitimate struggle for self- rule. Pakistan has also accused Indian intelligence of responsibility for the hostage taking, saying it was an attempt to discredit the separatist movement.

Former Official Urges Hostage Rescue Operation

BK2908160795 Delhi THE ASIAN AGE in English 28 Aug 95 p 8

[Article by former Intelligence Bureau chief M.K. Narayanan: "Rescue the hostages, restore India's credibility"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The hostage "crisis" may no longer be front page news, but it remains, nevertheless, a source of worry and embarrassment for the Indian government. The Al-Faran group, which carried out the abductions in the first week of July, displays no signs of contriteness, even after the gruesome killings of the Norwegian hostage a fortnight back, and has resisted all pleas — Indian as well as foreign — to release the remaining hostages. They continue to insist on linking the release of the hostages to the setting free of a select group of militant leaders now languishing in Indian jails. Contact with the Al-Faran group is being maintained by the authorities indirectly, over the telephone/wireless, and not face to face. No mention has been made of the use of mediators or interlocutors between the government and the Al-Faran militants.

Authorities the world over are usually reluctant to share critical items of information with the outside world during a hostage crisis. The reason often is that intended or unintended leakage of information could jeopardise the success of a possible rescue effort. The hostage crisis situation in Jammu and Kashmir could hence be very different from that portrayed in the media or in public pronouncements and even the "helplessness" of the authorities could be a facade. Those not privy to secret information or given any special insights into the actual situation thus have only conjectures or presumptions to fall back upon. This could be as hazardous as playing Russian roulette.

Notwithstanding any steps being contemplated or taken, the abduction of the six foreigners — one of whom escaped and another was killed — is a major setback, propelling the Kashmir issue into a high profile crisis of the first magnitude. The hostage situation compels India to take some form of effective action, at least to establish its claim that its writ runs in Kashmir, and it cannot be seen to be doing nothing. The stakes for India are high, and much will depend on a successful resolution of the crisis.

What are the prospects? The Al-Faran group have proved intractable and cannot be expected to become reasonable merely with the passage of time. Their sanguinary nature has already been demonstrated by their Norwegian hostage. They could well repeat this with the other hostages and it would be a mistake to regard this as an act arising from their desperation. International opinion is notoriously fickle, and the present chorus of protests directed against the Al-Faran could as easily turn into a sharp denouncement of the Indian authorities for its ineptitude if further killings take place. If a Charar Sharif scenario were to be re- enacted, that is the hostages are killed and the perpetrators of the crime manage to escape like Mast Gul, condemnation of India would attain a new high. There would be widespread criticism of confused objectives and strategies. An unedifying end to the hostage crisis could even provoke fresh moves for international intervention to solve the Kashmir issue.

India's decision not to effect a compromise with the Al-Faran terrorists and give in to their demands for the release of militants in custody, casts on the authorities

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a special responsibility to protect the lives of the remaining hostages. This cannot be achieved by impotent appeals to the captors. India now has little choice but to actively consider a "rescue" operation, despite the high risks that such an operation entails. The decisions rest with the Indian authorities, with the diplomats and experts of United Kingdom, United States and Germany, possibly acting in an advisory capacity. India should take a leaf from Clausewitz and affect an aggressive mien and launch a rescue operation to end the hostage crisis. A major success of this kind — a repeat of "Operation Black Thunder" (1988) in the Punjab which turned the tide against Sikh terrorists there — will convince Indian and international opinion that it is a "winner" and that it possesses both strategic policy as well as the actual ability to successfully carry out an operation of this magnitude.

India is favourably placed to carry out such an operation, and only needs to mesh the wealth of tactical information it has with the overall strategic scenario. Since the authorities are in contact with the Al-Faran, albeit indirectly, narrowing down the area in which the hostages and abductors are present should not be too difficult. The terrain is more familiar to the Intelligence and Internal Security agencies than to the abductors and this is a clear advantage. The Al-Faran group, believed to be a mix of the Harkatul Ansar and the Hizbul Mojahedin, is not impervious to "penetration," considering the kind of "assets" that Intelligence agencies have developed in the various militants groups including the Hizbul Mojahedin. By now a profile of the abductors would be available, including their present state of mind and certain other related key aspects. A combination of human sources and technical means makes monitoring of the group's activities well within our capability.

Additionally, our Intelligence agencies have state-of-the-art technological means to aid intelligence gathering, though they are loathe to flaunt this for valid reasons. Use of aerial surveillance employing side and downward looking cameras, to provide high resolution pictures of target sites is but one. Pin-pointed information regarding the location of the hostages and their captors in realtime should hence not be too difficult. In 1991, aerial photo reconnaissance provided detailed high resolution pictures of an area identified by human sources as the possible location of a major terrorist group. The terrorist encampment near the Wullar Lake in Jammu and Kashmir was precisely identified with grid references culminating in a successful commando operation and the elimination of a major group headquarters of the IUM [Ikhwam-ul Musalmeen]. In the four years since, such capacities have been further refined and improved. India can feel more encouraged to attempt such an operation as foreign "experts" are available on call, even if they do no take part in the actual rescue. The media has reported the presence of elements from Germany's crack GSG [Grenzschutzgruppe] 9, Britain's SAS [Special Air Service] and the US Delta Force though the authorities are highly circumspect about admitting the fact.

A unique opportunity exists for a "join operation," and nations are seldom given such opportunities — Mogadishu in the Eighties provided an opportunity for a joint GSG 9-SAS operation but there have been few other occasions a this kind.

India should, hence, actively try and work this intelligence and security information curve to its benefit. It is presumed that adequate human intelligence is available to consider a rescue attempt. Armed with this, the GSG-9's five member Special Combat Team, the four-man 22 SAS Patrol, and the Delta force segment working in tandem with the NSG [National Security Guard] can be a formidable combination, apart from providing a rich experience for India's strategic planners. The NSG's impressive array of weaponry and skill would be supplemented by teams of snipers or marksmen (using special rifles with daylight or night-aiming devices such as: the MP5 sub machine gun with aiming point projector ZPP for use at night and in poor light conditions, and Precision rifle PSG 1 with IR [infrared] nightscope also for operations in darkness or poor light conditions); highly developed logistic systems, including specially designed helicopters for tactical rescue missions, the most modern communication and communication interception systems; free fall parachutes of the 22 SAS (for any surprise; night time raid); and a virtual off-the-shelf information warfare capability. A hostage operation of this kind would require a clear political mandate. Yet the opportunity to effectively checkmate the terrorists and deal a crippling or terminal blow to externally aided militancy to their extra-territorial backers in Pakistan, should not be passed up. This could well be the most formidable antiterrorists assault force ever assembled, with some of the finest commando forces in the world experienced in, and with skills honed by, operations against modern guerrillas and terrorists specially of the Islamic, Afghan and Palestinian varieties. The terrorists have as yet only limited access to sophisticated and portable automatic weapons including, highly destructive plastic explosives, and would be no match for this combination of technological wizardry — some of it a spill over from the Gulf War — Commando skills and ground level intelligence. Better odds against the hostage takers may not exist. A brilliant rescue operation would end the present cycle of defeat in

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the Valley and re-establish India's credibility. The terrorists, in turn, would suffer the ignominy of defeat and surrender, and, their Pakistani mentors would be left to lick their wounds. This could then set the stage for the next phase, that is, resumption of the political process and holding of elections, and hopefully thereafter, and end to foreign interference in our internal affairs and Kashmir.

Daily Views Navy's Locally-Made Nuclear Submarine

BK3008125095 Varanasi AJ in Hindi 15 Aug 95 p 6

[Editorial: "The Invincible Navy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Indian Navy is preparing to equip itself with a locally made nuclear submarine. Presently, only the United States, Russia, Britain, and France possess such submarines. The Indian Navy had been leasing a nuclear submarine from Russia, but now it will be returned. The Navy also had two HDW submarines, from Germany. India's first nuclear submarine, built with the assistance of the Atomic Energy Commission, will be made available to the Navy. The Indian Navy also needs invincible aircraft carriers. Had we not been facing resource constraints, we could have built these warships in our own country, avoiding the need to purchase warships, like the Indian Naval Ship Virat, from abroad.

The Indian Navy was facing a resource crunch from 1988 until 1992. During those four years, the Navy did not order any equipment from abroad. However, the situation has improved to some extent and now the Navy is in a position to order six or seven warships annually. Orders totalling over several billion rupees have already been given to Indian companies. India requires a very strong navy to safeguard its vast maritime boundary. One example of how stupendous the Navy's task is that between Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka alone, the Navy has to monitor the movements of at least 400 boats per day. Discussion about modernizing the Navy has been going on for a long time now. In the current fiscal year, 29 billion rupees has been earmarked for the Navy. With this, it is hoped, the task of modernizing the Navy can be accomplished very easily.

Editorial Comments on Sonia Gandhi's Amethi Trip

BK2908164895 Delhi NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 26 Aug 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Sonia's Question"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Having forsaken her motherland, Italy, for India if Sonia Gandhi had to express her sorrow and anguish before a public gathering in Amethi about the slow pace of the probe into her husband's (and the country's ex-prime minister's) assassination-conspiracy, and complain about no outcome of the probe even after four years and three months after the sad event, it is certainly a matter of deep concern and shame for all the Indians and especially for Indian democracy. We don't believe in the "blood for blood" theory, but should any self-respecting country show as much callousness and non-seriousness in probing into the assassination of its ex-prime minister which was committed chiefly for political reasons? Won't it be losing its reputation in the international community? As a matter of fact, not only the murder of the country's ex-prime minister but any of its citizen should be considered with utmost seriousness. But since we have grown rather callous and thick-skinned about the murder of our citizens and also since our judicial system has grown quite lax and inefficient, we fail to develop a fool-proof system to guard even the life of our dignitaries let alone the common people. For, inefficiency when it creeps into any system, does not remain confined but spreads in all directions. This is one aspect of the situation. The second aspect is related to our country's foreign policy. It could be a moot point whether sending the Indian peace-corps to Sri Lanka was justified or not, but should we decide that it was wrong let the LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Elam) spread its terrorist dragnet in India and succeed in murdering a prominent leader for political reasons, most certainly we cannot justify our inactivity and silence after this outrage. It is true that the charge sheet has already been filed in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination-conspiracy case, and some of the suspects are facing trial with the Jain Enquiry Commission probing into all the political and security related aspects of the case. But not until our accusing finger officially identifies the kingpins of this deep-rooted conspiracy that our whole country's administration has any right to be complacent or lethargic about it.

Equally vital is the fact that this Rajiv Gandhi assassination- conspiracy case is a national issue, and any attempt to imbue it with the diplomacy of tears is totally unjustified and improper. Unfortunately the powers that be in the Congress' rank and file have always been obsessed with the extreme moral pressures that they feel to be emanating from Sonia Gandhi's personality. So much so that once the whole party requested her to become its president. But for all those loyalty demonstrations was this important question ever raised at the party or the government levels? If it ever was raised and met with disappointment the details of that attempt ought to be placed before the nation. Now raising this question on virtually the eve of the general elections after keeping silent for four years and three months — and in addition not in

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the capital of the country but in Amethi which is a traditional parliamentary seat of the Indira-Rajiv family — engenders a logical suspicion that this national issue is being used as a tool to fulfill the political ambition of a family for its private benefit. If it is so it is definitely a matter for yet another serious concern.

Central Bank Open Market Operations To Continue

BK3008112295 Delhi THE ECONOMIC TIMES in English 26 Aug 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] THE RESERVE Bank of India (RBI) will continue to use open market operations as an instrument of monetary policy, according to the deputy governor, Mr S S Tarapore. He also took a dig at the Sodhani Committee which he felt "has extended its brief" by suggesting that inter-bank deposits should be exempted from net demand and time liability (NDTL) for calculating reserve requirements.

"I have no hesitation in saying that the Sodhani Committee has been barking up the wrong tree, I have no hesitation in being absolutely frank and candid about it," he remarked.

Speaking at a seminar on "Development of Debt Markets," Mr Tarapore said that monetisation of the deficit is not a viable alternative as it will have a deleterious effect on the economy by accelerating the rate of inflation.

The pressure on the government to borrow at higher rates, the prospect of facing a devolvement of its issues and its crossing the agreed limit for ad hoc bills are all symptoms of the larger malaise, namely that of fiscal indiscipline. According to Mr Tarapore, steps need to be taken to control fiscal deficit. Monetisation as an option to bail out the government's over- borrowing will not aid in the development of an active debt market, he said.

Commenting on the valuation norms of securities by banks, Mr Tarapore said that they are at variance with international norms with banks currently valuing only 40 per cent of their assets at market prices. He said that overtime banks will have to brace up to marking-to-market 100 per cent of their securities portfolio.

Referring to the crticism against how the RBI has been determining its cut-off rates at government auctions, the deputy governor said that "we are now in a world of conjectural variation wherein the market players size up what each one thinks and makes a move accordingly. Just as market players have the prerogative to price their bids as they like the RBI has the freedom to decide on its acceptance and rejection levels."

On the question of the government's debt maturity profile, Mr Tarapore said that the government would definitely not issue debt in a manner that bunches up repayments. He further added that while investors need to take care not to run into asset-liability mismatches, those with long-term liabilities in their books need not shy away from short-term assets as this does not lead to a mismatch.

One of the major problems afflicting the security market is the fact that all the players have the same perception and therefore the same liquidity need. Hence little trading gets done, he said.

Iran

Velayati Confirms Support for Lebanese 'Resistance'

LD3008151095 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Velayati today met with (Sayyid Ibrahim Amin), chairman of the Lebanese Hizballah parliamentary group, and discussed latest developments in Lebanon and the Hizballah forces' resistance against the Zionist regime's aggression.

At the meeting, our foreign minister praised the Lebanese Muslim forces' resistance in the face of the conspiracies of the occupying regime in Jerusalem and confirmed the unstinting support of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the rightful struggles of the Muslim people of Lebanon.

Larijani: Lebanon Shows U.S. Cannot Intimidate Nations

LD3008171595 Tehran IRNA in English 1707 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 30, IRNA — Head of a visiting parliamentary delegation from Lebanon Sayyed Ibrahim Amin said here Wednesday [30 August] that Washington wished to re-establish Zionist power in the region but that it could not do anything in disregard of the will of the nations. He said Muslim nations, in the meanwhile, should not spare any effort for asserting the rights of Muslim nations.

The Lebanese official who was meeting with Deputy Chairman of the Foreign Policy Commission of Iran's Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majlis) Mohammad Javad Larijani also briefed him on the latest developments in Lebanon, commenting that all political groups and specifically the Hizballah and their allies were committed to playing an active role in the political upheaval in that country.

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The Iranian Majlis official in response appreciated the role being played in Lebanon by the Hizballah as a "powerful and legitimate" group, saying that the resistance in southern Lebanon against Zionist occupiers was evidence of the inability of Washington to intimidate nations.

Daily Urges West To Cooperate With OIC on Bosnia

LD3108121095 Tehran IRNA in English 1144 GMT 31 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug. 31, IRNA — A morning daily while giving its cautious approval to the latest action taken by the international bodies in Bosnia-Herzegovina (B-H), wrote that it would be better if they coordinated their action with the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

The English language 'TEHRAN TIMES' in its editorial on Thursday added: "NATO and the Rapid Reaction Force finally came up with attacks on Serb positions around Sarajevo in retaliation for a mortar attack on a market on Monday that killed 37 and injured tens."

The aggressor Serbs have been defying all international rules and regulations partly because of indifference and tacit approval of the U.N., U.S. and NATO.

The Serbs have besieged Sarajevo, a U.N.-designated 'safe area,' stockpiling ammunitions around the city to launch an attack and occupy it, they have already done so in other U.N.-declared safe havens. They recently overran the two safe havens of Srebrenica and Zepa, killing, wounding and displacing numerous innocent civilians. "The international community did not stop them." the paper commented.

"The recent Serb attack on Sarajevo has outraged the world community. If NATO and the Rapid Reaction Force (RRF) had not reacted this time, the world would have never forgiven them."

Now that NATO and the RRF have come out of hibernation, they should prove that they are serious in reining the aggressor Serbs. they should not use their attacks as a ploy for quelling world anger, the daily pointed out.

The world now expects NATO and the RRF to continue their operations until the Serb threat is totally removed. The OIC has announced that it is ready to play its part effectively in order to help settle the crisis in the Balkans. This time the West should form a coalition with the OIC in order to deal with the Balkan crisis in a meaningful manner, TEHRAN TIMES concluded.

Minister Condemns U.S. Presence in Persian Gulf

LD3008202395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran's Interior Minister Mr. 'Ali Mohammad Besharati in yesterday's session of the Iranian National Security Council condemned the presence of the U.S. in the Persian Gulf region.

The interior minister of Iran later in the session pointed to the daily-increasing American presence in the Persian Gulf region saying that we are watching regional developments with utmost scrutiny and care and believe that presence of foreigners in the region is in fact the jeopardy to the area's security and stability.

Mr. Besharati then, underscoring the necessity for providing security for the Persian Gulf region by the littoral states, warned that the U.S., under the dubious pretext of guaranteeing and safeguarding its allies' interests as well as its concern over Iraq's situation, has virtually rendered the region unstable merely in pursuit of its illegitimate profiteering objectives.

India's Haider Discusses Expansion of Trade Ties

LD3008084395 Tehran IRNA in English 0622 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 30, IRNA— India's Secretary of External Affairs Salman Haider discussed expansion of Tehran-New Delhi trade relations in a meeting with Minister of Commerce Yahya ol-Eshaq here Tuesday [29 August].

Stressing promotion of bilateral trade relations with regards to the two countries' potentials, ol-Eshaq voiced Iran's readiness in this connection.

The commerce minister expressed satisfaction with the performance of Iran-India joint commission saying that cooperation of the two chambers of commerce would be useful to promote trade ties between Tehran and New Delhi.

Haider said that India was willing to further strengthen its trade ties with Iran simultaneously with its friendly political relations.

The Indian official arrived here Monday to follow up agreements reached between the two countries during a visit to India of Iran's President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in April this year.

Haider met with Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia-Pacific Affairs, 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi, and discussed issues of mutual interests.

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Haidar on Need for Non-Aligned Movement

LD3008164995 Tehran IRNA in English 1635 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug. 30. IRNA — The visiting Indian Deputy Minister of External Affairs, Salman Haidar said here on Wednesday [30 August] that the growing expansion of Tehran-New Delhi relations indicates the political will of Iranian and Indian officials.

In a meeting with Iran's first vice-president, Hassan Habibi, at the end of his three-day visit to Tehran, he said that exchange of visits by the two countries officials will serve to deepen bilateral relations.

Haidar stressed the need for revival of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) to deal with the current problems in the third world and that of the developing countries.

Iran and India as the two powerful member states of NAM can play important role to help attain its objectives, Haidar said.

On India-Pakistan relations, Haidar said India believes the best solution for settling the dispute between the two countries is peaceful negotiations.

Habibi expressed pleasure with promotion of Tehran-New Delhi relations and said the two countries should use their high capacities to develop multi-lateral cooperation.

Iranian vice-president said civilization, the glowing and long history and cultural bonds between the two nations necessitate promotion of mutual relations.

Habibi recalled Iranian partnership in Indian development projects including railway, fertilizers complex and gas pipeline.

He also called for holding Iranian and Indian industrial trade fairs in either country to help the people get familiarized with the potentials of the two states.

Referring to the important role of NAM in the current world development, Habibi said the movement is an approprite ground for cooperation of NAM member states.

If NAM was active, the crimes in Bosnia would not have happened, and the NAM member states could deal with problems in Asia and Africa properly and actively, Habibi regretted.

On regional policy of the Islamic Republic, he said, "we believe that security in the Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean will be restored through multi-lateral cooperation among regional states. We condemn presence of the alien (forces) in the region."

Habibi underlined effective role of Iran and India in Indian Ocean.

Turkey Seen Taking 'Pan-Turkic' Approach at Summit

NC2908154695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkish 1630 GMT 28 Aug 95

[Unattributed commentary: "The Bishkek Summit"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The leaders of the Central Asian Turkic republics met under President Suleyman Demirel's chairmanship in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, yesterday. Although the main objective of the summit was said to be the strengthening of relations between Turkey and the Turkic republics, political experts draw attention to Turkey's past efforts to increase its political and economic influence in the republics of Central Asia and the Caucasus. However, they say that Ankara met various obstacles, the most important being Russia's displeasure with Turkey's activities in Central Asia and the Caucasus. In fact, it will be recalled that Russia was upset at Turkey's evasive approach to the proposal some time ago that the Turkic summit should be held in Moscow.

Considering the existing world conditions, the same experts say they do not agree that language and race are effective bases for establishing regional cooperation. What can guarantee regional unity are the common interests of all the countries in the region. That must not be forgotten. However, it seems that Turkey wants to use its international influence not to promote regional cooperation but to promote pan-Turkic unity. It must be stressed that experience shows that similar organizations have been unsuccessful around the world.

Court Chief Rejects Criticism on Human Rights

LD3008111195 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At a news conference this morning, Ayatollah [Mohammad] Mohammadi-Gilani, president of the Supreme Court, said the recent claim by the UN Human Rights Commission on violation of human rights in Iran was spiteful and influenced by the American conspiracies against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

According to a report by a Central News Unit correspondent, the Supreme Court president said the reactionary stance of the Human Rights Commission toward the Zionist regime's crimes in the occupied territories and the aggression by Serbs in Bosnia-Herzegovina are examples of the weakness of the false advocates of human rights.

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Referring to the performance of the country's Supreme Court, he said, 29,743 cases have been submitted to the Supreme Court during the past year, in addition to the existing cases. He said out of these cases 34,592 cases have been investigated and concluded.

In reply to our correspondent's question on the court's verdict concerning the investigation of embezzlement case in the Saderat Bank, the Supreme Court president said no objection has so far been lodged with the Supreme Court by those accused in the case.

Khamene'i Praises Government's Economic Achievements

LD3008140995 Tehran IRNA in English 1328 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug. 30, IRNA — The leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, here on Wednesday [30 August] lauded achievements of the government in economic areas.

He pointed to reports released by the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) and said the satisfactory trade balance, increase in foreign exchange reserves and fall in imports, compared to last year, are the main indicators of successes made.

The leader added that these achievements should be publicized.

Reports on progress of the country make people happy so they should be informed about the economic developments in the country.

He said a great number of development projects became operational last year (March 94-March 95) and in the past six months, a further proof to the rapid progress of the country in the field of reconstruction.

Implementation of development projects boost domestic production, reduce cost of living and create more jobs, the leader said adding that the officials should keep the public informed about the positive consequences of its programs.

The leader said that the government's measures in stabilizing the foreign exchange rate and its campaign against smuggling of foreign currencies and goods have had positive effects on people's life.

Elsewhere in his speech to the cabinet ministers on the last day of the Government Week (August 24-30), the leader touched on the issue of campaign against corruption and preventing infiltration of opportunist elements who misuse the public funds.

He said the judiciary's performance in bringing the corrupt elements to justice is a source of pride for the Islamic Republic and officials in all institutions should take legal actions against any kind of corruption.

The leader added that the government should vigorously follow materialization of social justice. "Justice is the goal and growth and development are means of attaining this goal. Eradication of poverty and deprivation are the main preconditions for establishment of social justice which should be on the top of the priorities of the government. This vital issue (social justice) has received the due attention in the second five-year development plan," the leader stressed.

Ayatollah Khamene'i said that the Iranian nation is highly talented and the success of Iranian students at international scientific competitions demonstrated this reality. Therefore, appropriate programs should be formulated for training and educating the talented forces so that they will be able to take up responsibilities in administration of the state.

The leader said that the government plan to promote export of non-oil commodities in order to cut reliance on oil revenues is very promising. He added that all potentials should be exploited to diversify production.

Iran is a country rich in natural resources and is prided with a remarkable nation. Despite the propaganda of superpowers and Zionists, the Islamic Republic of Iran has now definitely become a model not only for nations but also for governments including the big powers, the leader added.

Referring to total stability of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the leader of the Islamic revolution said that the Islamic Iran enjoys immense power at world level and influence in many parts of the world. Since its creation till now it has been treading on a clear path, and such continuity and steadfastness is unparalleled, said the leader.

Khamene'i on Economy, Opposition to U.S.

LD3008200195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1005 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Dear listeners, on the last day of Government Week, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, accompanied by the members of the cabinet, was received today by His Eminence Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, the eminent leader of the revolution. The eminent leader referred to the important achievements of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran in various domestic and international arenas, and made certain recommendations. Let me draw your attention to a recording of this meeting:

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[Begin recording] [Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Thank you very much for allowing me to visit you with the members of the cabinet during Government Week. It is a valuable opportunity for us. [passage omitted]

[Khamene'i] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] Government Week is being held at a very good time for us in terms of the general situation in our country. The people can see good achievements as a result of the system of the Islamic Republic and their compassionate and devoted government.

First, from the political point of view, in very recent times, in the past two-three months, the major powers — more specifically, the government of the United States — has confronted our revolution, our nation, and our country in the course of three incidents. It was defeated in political terms in all three cases. First, there was the issue of the nuclear agreement with Russia. Then came the efforts to impose an economic blockade on Iran. And, finally, there were the events related to our agreement with South Africa.

Exalted God created three incidents. In these three cases, the U.S. Government, with its claims to being a superpower, and with its vast propaganda and political resources, created an uproar in the world against the Islamic Republic, and confronted the system of the Islamic Republic. Yet it was forced to retreat in all three cases. It became clear that if a system possesses true strength, has strong foundations, does not rely on anyone, and does not obtain its strength, existence, and legitimacy from outside, this is the result. When others confront it in important world events, the one which has provoked the confrontation is the one which, unjustly, has to retreat.

God be praised, the Islamic republic of Iran's government is continuing its work and its path with strength. This is what I wanted to say in terms of the political dimension. The people can see this. Our friends in the world can see this. It was an achievement for everyone in terms of improving morale. It was God's blessing.

As for the economy, some important economic indicators show that, thanks be to God, in the arena of economic activities the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has carried out successful endeavors. Reports on this have been issued, and I commend you, gentlemen — specifically concerning those main indicators such as the balance of foreign trade becoming positive, such as increased foreign currency holdings, such as a reduction in imports compared to the past. [sentence as heard] God willing, our brethren must work to ensure that the reduction in imports does not deal a blow against any sectors, and that it bears good results. Those things must be explained to the people in simple language. [passage omitted] That will make the people hopeful; satisfied. Making people happy, informing them about true progress is the correct thing to do. It is the people's right, and it must be honored. So much for that.

Moreover, in the economic field, projects have been completed during last year [year beginning 21 March 1994] and the beginning of this year. They have been reported by the media. [passage omitted] Thanks be to God, what has been done so far and explained to the people has made a good impression on the public.

Concerning the fields which touch the people's lives, it is appropriate that I should refer to the stabilizing of hard currency prices and the prevention of smuggling — a strong campaign against smuggling, whether of goods or hard currency — which had a great effect on the people's lives. Those are very good things. Thanks be to God, we feel a good atmosphere in the country.

What I wish to tell you is that the government of the Islamic Republic has true sovereignty through two factors. And the sovereignty of the government is in reality, the sovereignty of the nation. What is called national sovereignty in a country is a strong, caring, and interested government being at the head of affairs, recognizing fully the interests of the people, traversing the paths with strength and power, and not being afraid of foreign threats, animosity, and some probable internal obstructive acts. That is a situation, thanks be to God, one sees.

National sovereignty has two bases; in reality it is the power of the government. One is true relation with God. That is, to work for the sake of God. That is, no one should work for material reasons; for personal reasons. [passage omitted]

The second basis is to attract the attention of the people. If you link yourself to God, your relationship with those who believe in God and are God's servants will improve. [passage omitted]

The fact that unity was established in the country, the fact that we enjoy God's blessing, the fact that things progressed, and the enemies ploys were foiled was due to God's blessing. Of course, his ordinary tool was the support of the people for the authorities, for the revolution, and the servants of the revolution. That still pertains, and you must try to safeguard it. That is what the officials must do their utmost to preserve. [passage omitted]

We have a good country, outstanding people, an extraordinary global status. Despite the propaganda by the superpowers, the Zionists, and the world's malevolent

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elements against Iran, it is a role model in the world, not only to other people, but to other governments, and also some major governments. When you see today that some countries in various parts of the world, in Asia and elsewhere, dare to stand up to America's excesses, it stems from using Islamic Iran as an example.

This never existed in the past. Even when there were two blocs, each hostile to the other, those who were not affiliated to the eastern bloc, even if they claimed to be independent, did not dare stand up to America, although America had a rival. Today, it has no rival in the world. At the same time you see that there are countries in Asia, in Africa, which resist America's wishes with the utmost strength and audacity. What does that stem from? It stems from using Islamic Iran as a role model. [passage omitted]

Peace and God's mercy be upon you. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Habibi Inaugurates Gas Trunkline Complex

LD2808211095 Tehran IRNA in English 2041 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ardebil, Aug. 28, IRNA — First Deputy President Hasan Habibi on Monday [28 August] inaugurated a complex for maintaining a gas trunkline in Ardebil from where natural gas is conduited in northern and northeastern Iran.

The construction of the complex started four years ago and upwards of rls one billion has been invested on it.

Habibi on Monday afternoon also inaugurated phase one of a provincial road that links Ardebil with the village Anzab in the same province.

Torkan on Expansion of Railway Network

LD2808163895 Tehran IRNA in English 1619 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug. 28, IRNA — Roads and Transportation Minister Akbar Torkan said here Monday [28 August] that the Mashhad-Sarakhs railway track, designed to link the Iranian railways to the vast Central Asian network, is to be completed in the next six months. Torkan said that work on the project has been accelerated following President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's emphasis [on] works on completion of the 200-km track.

Talking to IRNA on the occasion of government week (August 24-30), Torkan said that rls. 270 billion would be invested for expansion of the railway network this year.

On the Kerman-Zahedan railway track, Torkan said the president has allocated around rls. 30 billion for the purpose. He added that once complete the 540-km track would link Asia to Europe. Zahedan is already connected by rail to Pakistan and the Indian sub-continent.

Fisheries Chief Announces Large Investment Program

LD2608193195 Tehran IRNA in English 1751 GMT 26 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 26 (IRNA) — Managing Director of the Fisheries Company, Rasul Lahijanian said here on Saturday [26 August] that 23 fishing jetties would be added to the country's ports on the Caspian Sea, Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman in the next five years.

Speaking at a press conference, he said rls. 286 billion is to be spent on building the jetties during the second 5-year plan (1995-2000).

This week, he said, Solhabadu Fishing Jetty in Bushehr, on the Persian Gulf, was opened and in the next few days the Amirabad Jetty in Neka, Mazandaran Province will be put into operation.

He said the Amirabad Jetty, designed to serve as a multi-purpose jetty with a 40,000-ton fishing capacity, will soon be joined to the country's railway network to facilitate trade with the Caspian Sea littoral states.

According to Lahijanian investment in fisheries during the second 5-year plan will total rls 1,355 billion, of which rls. 600 billion is to be made by the public sector and rls. 755 billion by the private sector.

He said this year rls. 120 billion have been earmarked for the development of fisheries.

On export of Iranian caviar, he said, this year caviar exports rose by a record 66 percent in terms of value compared to last year's figures.

Lahijanian expected caviar exports to fetch the country dlrs. 489 million during the second development plan.

Degree Requirement for Majles Candidates Rejected

LD2608194595 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Assembly for the Discernment of What is Best [ADWB] at a meeting chaired by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani has discussed Clause 5 of Article XII of the measure approved by the Majles in connection with the bill for the amendment of the

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Majles Elections Law regarding the educational qualifications required by candidates — to which the Guardian Council had objected.

The ADWB announced: The condition relating to the educational qualification of candidates will remain as was stated in the Majles Elections Law, approved in 1983-84. Thus, the requirement that candidates should have a bachelor's degree is eliminated.

Former Prime Minister Explains Resignation

95LA0358A London KEYHAN in Persian 13 Jul 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Several days ago in London, Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani, one of the leaders of the Islamic revolution and former prime minister of the Islamic Republic, gave a speech to a group of Iranian students living in England at the Towhid Society. At this meeting Mahdavi-Kani also discussed his resignation as secretary from the Militant Clergy Association [Jameh-ye Rowhaniyat-e Mobarez]. He said: Some publications printed incorrect interpretations and reasons for my resignation. Kani said that in the last two or three years he decided to resign, but the reasons for this resignation need detailed discussion that could not be given in this short meeting.

This is an internal matter in the association. Every group has views and preferences, and in any case, to the extent that I was able I dealt with the issues actively. I saw my involvement as the association's secretary as essential and useful, but now for whatever reason (but not because of the indisposition and illness to which some attributed my resignation), I cannot be actively involved in this association and I saw it necessary to step aside in favor of someone else.

Mahdavi-Kani said: Apart from these things, I have views on the association's policies and the quality of the management of the affairs of the Militant Clergy Association, which I have presented to the Central Council.

REUTERS quoted the newspaper RESALAT from Tehran as saying that Mahdavi-Kani's resignation goes back to an internal dispute within the Militant Clergy Association. Although reports of his resignation have been circulating by word of mouth for some time, IRNA finally confirmed it after several weeks of either denial or silence.

At the same meeting of Iranian students, Mahdavi-Kani asked them to return to Iran after completing their studies and told them: Even if you have not been using government foreign exchange, you are still indebted to Iran. Do not give the fruits of your life to foreigners on the pretext of an education for your children, and do not be swayed by Satanic temptations. He added: Students and scholars should always be in contact with the academic centers, obtain new information, and take it back to the country. Do not say that there are problems in the country. Why don't you want to participate in solving the nation's problems and strive to overcome them?

Resignation, Nateq-Nuri Presidency

95LA0358B London KEYHAN in Persian 3 Aug 95 pp 1, 11

[FBIS Translated Text] In London recently, Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani told a group of Iranian students studying in England that his resignation as secretary from the Militant Clergy Association [Jameh-ye Rowhaniyat-e Mobarez] was not due to illness, but rather to differences of opinion that arose between him and some other members of this association.

During these same days some of the Tehran newspapers wrote: Ayatollah Kani absolutely disagrees with of 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri becoming president of the republic.

Several people close to Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani also said privately to news correspondents that Mahdavi-Kani believes that under Iran's current circumstances the person who becomes president of the republic must not be a clergyman but rather must be someone with a high caliber of management ability and sufficient political and economic information.

During the last year in his speeches and interviews Nateq-Nuri, speaker of the Majles, has always opposed changing the Constitution to permit Rafsanjani to be elected a third time, and at the same time he has seen himself as being a worthy candidate for this position.

Last week in Chahar Mahal va Bakhtiari, in a talk with seminary students in that province, while answering a question, he said for the first time concerning the coming elections for president of the republic: It is still too soon for me to speak on this matter.

At this meeting, Nateq-Nuri discussed the differences of opinion that led to Mahdavi-Kani's resignation. He said: Some time ago Mr. Kani said that as association secretary he should be involved in the details of all issues. He did not delegate authority very much and was involved in sensitive issues.

Nateq-Nuri said: In view of the fact that the Militant Clergy Association is moving in the direction of party and organizational operation, Mr. Kani did not accept this issue. He added: At the meeting it was decided to ask him to retract his resignation and to act on their

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request if possible. Nateq-Nuri then told the seminary students:

There is talk afoot, sometimes printed in the newspapers, about separating religion from politics and separating the clergy from the government.

He noted: If the imam had thought in this way, there would never have been a revolution. These ideas are knowingly spread by enemies through unwitting friends. He added: Some newspapers are printing articles whose authors are saying that government is a philosophy and the vice regent is not a ruler but a trustee and is subject to dismissal by the people.

Nateq-Nuri then discussed the reasons for the failure of constitutional movements and uprisings and the failure of previous revolutions in Iran. He said this was the result of public indifference, especially among the university class. One of the people present at this meeting asked Nateq-Nuri: They say that your trip to the Province of Chahar Mahal va Bakhtiari has a propaganda component for the presidential elections. Isn't this improper use of the public treasury?

The speaker of the Majles answered: I made this trip at the invitation of the Friday imams, the governor general, and the deputies, and to meet the people and officials of the province. Moreover, the chiefs of the executive and judicial powers also go on trips within the country. He then said: I try to censor myself on these kinds of ideas.

A student asked Nateq-Nuri about Shaykh 'Ali Tehrani. He answered: Sheykh 'Ali regrets what he did and is prepared to accept any kind of punishment.

Entezam Criticizes Regime, Calls For Elections

95LA0357A London KEYHAN in Persian 27 Jul 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Abbas Amir Entezam, Mehdi Bazargan's temporary deputy prime minister, attacked the Islamic Republic regime in the harshest terms in a letter written from his place of incarceration, calling for a referendum and free elections. He asked: Why shouldn't Iran have relations with the United States and Israel?

Last week the Committee to Defend Amir Entezam published a letter in his handwriting and noted that this is the first letter Amir Entezam wrote after his transfer from prison to his home. In this letter, dated Khordad 1374 [22 May - 21 June 1995], Amir Entezam gave his address as "Tehran, Prison" and "Tehran, Ministry of Intelligence Prison."

This letter was written in answer to Ms. Renate Schmidt, president of a chapter of the Socialist Democratic Party in the Province of Bayern in Germany. Amir Entezam writes that since he is still a person with whom meetings are forbidden, as he has been for 16 years, he received Ms Schmidt's letter indirectly via the German Embassy in Tehran. He then expressed the hope that with her help and that of the German Parliament's Human Rights Commission and the Helmut Kohl government, it will be possible to hold a just trial for him attended by defense attorneys, a jury, and representatives of the Human Rights Commission.

'Abbas Amir Entezam then wrote: What you have heard and been informed of concerning human rights violations in Iran in the last 16 years by this illegitimate and illegal regime which rules our nation at gun point is only a drop in the ocean of their inhumane acts. I am one of millions of victims of the egotism, lawlessness, and savagery of the people running this regime. They do not have the courage to try me, and in violation of the law, for the last 16 years they have not agreed to resume my public trial.

Elsewhere in his letter, Amir Entezam wrote: Why must our nation cut its relations with the outside world and not have political relations with a number of other nations, including the United States? Why shouldn't Israel's existence be recognized? Why should we be in a state of war with Israel, contrary to the views and wishes of the majority of the realistic people in our Iran? Why should this inhumane regime be frightening the people of the world with its terrorist acts? Why should our people be deprived of the right to a free referendum to elect the regime of their choice? Is there any other way for the people themselves to play a role in determining their destiny, other than through a democratic and popular government?

Amir Entezam then added that this regime must be persuaded to hold a free referendum under UN supervision so the people of Iran will be able to elect the regime they want. Likewise, with pressure on "Iran's illegitimate regime," the elections for the next Majles in Esfand 1374 [as published, 20 February - 19 March 1995] and the elections for the president of the republic next year, must be conducted freely under UN supervision.

The Committee To Defend Amir Entezam, especially in view of the fact that Amir Entezam has called for relations with Israel, has expressed serious concern for his life.

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Pakistan

Editorial Addresses U.S. 'Trickery' in Policies

BK2808025795 Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 26 Aug 95 p 3

[Editorial: "Your Real Face Must Be Seen"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. ambassador in Pakistan, John Cameron Monjo, has said that the U.S. Administration and Congress is fully aware of Pakistan's regional, political and economic importance and that is why the United States always wants a stable democratic government in Pakistan. Talking to a journalist in Karachi, he hoped that the democratic institutions would gradually become stronger and that Pakistan would also achieve economic success through its geographic location. Though democracy was born in Britain, the United States has actually emerged as the world champion of democracy. But it is also an irrefutable reality that in the Third World, particularly in the Islamic world, the United States has always been responsible for strangulating democratic governments. Interestingly, while doing this, the United States has been praising democracy and has always claimed that it wants to see democracy flourishing in every society of the world. Though there are internal causes for the unstable condition of democracy in Pakistan, the involvement of the United States can also be felt quite clearly if we closely examine the following factors. No military dictator in the third world, particularly in the Muslim world, has ever come into power without U.S. support and the same is the case with the so-called democratic governments. For a long time there remained two different views about the United States' commitment to democracy. One section always considered the U.S. commitment to democracy a facade while the other was under the illusion that the United States acted according to its claims. However, all these illusions are now gone and people with the slightest insight are well aware of the fact that primarily the United States is not in favor of democracy for Muslim countries, and if it is, it wants its own stooges to be in power. Is it not a fact that a revolution took place in Iran and a government was formed with the people's support? And is it not also a fact that the United States has been trying to harm the Iranian revolution from its very first day? And is it not a fact that the Islamic Front won an overwhelming majority in the elections in Algeria and that the United States, with the help of France, then supported the military clique, who disregarded public opinion and blocked the Islamic Front from coming into power? Is it also not a fact that the United States is creating hurdles against the formation of an elected government of the Mojahedin in Afghanistan and wants Zahir Shah to be made the king of Afghanistan once again and to have the monarchy restored there? Can this be called a democratic attitude?

The United States wants to see stability in Pakistan, but only to a certain limit and not beyond that, because then there could be problems for the United States. This is the reason that governments in Pakistan keep on changing like fashion dresses. There are some internal factors also, but the trickery of the U.S. hand is also not invisible. Some circles are of the opinion that these days the United States wants some stability in Pakistan. But the reason for that is neither its friendship with Pakistan nor its so called love for democracy. Rather, the reason is that it wants to use Pakistan for its own interests in the region. Pakistan's geographical location has been declared important by the U.S. ambassador, which is true, but it seems that the United States will not allow Pakistan to take advantage of this position, or will permit it only to a limited degree. Therefore, against this background, for the people of Pakistan, John C. Monjo's statement is nothing more than an interesting joke.

Daily Views U.S. Senators' Visit, Delhi 'Denial'

BK3108071095 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu 30 Aug 95 p 10

[Editorial: "Claim of US Senators and India's Denial]

[FBIS Translated Text] Even before the ink could dry or the sound waves of the broadcast could fade away, India falsified the declaration of U.S. Senators Hank Brown and Arlen Specter, who recently visited India and Pakistan, saying that India has agreed to participate in the five-nation conference. India has called it a part of the disinformation campaign. The two senators said while talking to newsmen in Islamabad that they held talks two days ago with Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao, and he agreed on convening a conference of United States, Russia, China, India, and Pakistan on the issue of declaring this region a nuclear free zone.

An Indian Foreign Ministry spokesman denied this announcement immediately after the broadcast of this news, saying that India has always maintained that the nuclear issue should be solved not on a regional basis but on the global level so that the question of India's participation in the five-nation conference does not arise.

The U.S. senators have not expressed any comments on this Indian announcement because they travelled to Damascus soon after this press conference. They might be surprised by India's denial because, according to their statement, Rao had a detailed discussion on the five-nation conference proposal and had said that India is ready to hold talks on making the region free of nuclear

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weapons in a period of 10 to 15 years. The government and the people of Pakistan, however, are not surprised by India's denial because we have the bitter experience of India's deceptive statements in the past several years. So it does not surprise us if India has backed out on its words with the U.S. senators.

This denial is regrettable anyway, because the nuclear arms race in the region is dangerous for the region and for both countries. The missile race is also a part of this problem, and it would have been very encouraging if the issue could have been resolved through U.S. mediation. The Pakistani foreign office had immediately given a positive response to the Senators' proposal and had welcomed the possibility of holding a five-nation conference. Obviously, Pakistan sticks to its stand and will keep on doing so. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto had also agreed on participating in the five nation conference.

This latest incident should give the U.S. Government an idea of which country is a hurdle to the normalization of relations, stopping the arms race, and improving bilateral relations, and which country has adopted a negative attitude. The U.S. senators also said in their news conference that it is still encouraging that India and Pakistan are ready to hold unconditional talks for stopping the nuclear arms race, even if China does not agree on participating in the conference or for some other reason the conference cannot be held. India's recent refusal has closed these chances too and has restored the same position that was prevailing for the past several years.

Pakistan has always been ready to adopt any proposal for making the region a nuclear free zone, but India has been refusing to do so. India used to say that it was threatened not only by Pakistan's nuclear program but also by China's nuclear program, so it cannot accept Pakistan's proposal. Recently, however, India has taken a firm stand that they will not consider any proposal unless a proposal for nuclear disarmament on a global level comes under consideration.

The U.S. Government should now realize that India and not Pakistan is responsible for nuclear proliferation in South Asia. Through this the U.S. Government should realize that the Pressler amendment is useless and unjustified. Rather, it has provided India an opportunity to pursue its nuclear program more vigorously. So the U.S. Administration and the Congress should support the efforts to ease the Pressler amendment. We hope that India's latest somersault will unveil its real face to the United States and the whole world.

It is said that the U.S. senators did not consider the Kashmir Issue one of their priority issues. They should be aware that in the case of South Asia, the nuclear issue, which they term as their top priority, is deeply related to the Kashmir dispute. Unless this dispute is resolved, the nuclear race between India and Pakistan cannot be stopped. The United States must take an interest in the Kashmir issue and should set its priorities right in order to halt the nuclear race.

India Criticized for Rejecting Nuclear Proposal

BK3008052195 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 29 Aug 95

[Commentary by Mujtaba Akhtar]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Two prominent U.S. Republican senators —Hank Brown and Arlen Specter—left Islamabad Monday [28 August] after completing their visit to Pakistan. During their stay in Pakistan, their main focus was on two issues—Pressler law and nonproliferation in South Asia. On nonproliferation in South Asia, they expressed U.S. support for Pakistan's five-power conference proposal on the issue. They informed Pakistan that they had also discussed the proposal in New Delhi with Prime Minister Narasimha Rao, who, as the senators said, had also expressed India's willingness for participation.

Taking peace efforts seriously is something the Indian Government is not good at. This is not the suspicion to be taken lightly. The region would be decidedly a less safe place if Indian top men set themselves free to grind their diplomatic ax; and, if they did so with nuclear weapons up their sleeves, the fate of the region could be hard to imagine. Not a single drop against the fast-escalating nuclear trend has fell from the lips of the Indian policymakers. [sentence as heard]

Unlike Pakistan, India did not encourage the civilized world's wish to ensure peace and security in the region by saying goodbye to nuclear program. Quick as a flash, Indian policymakers outrightly rejected the two U.S. senators' claim that India backed proposed five-nation conference to promote nonproliferation in South Asia. Pakistan had lost no time in hailing the idea, assuring the senators of their all-out support. The way India reacted against the U.S. senators' efforts for peace convinced the civilized world what its policymakers were up to.

Hank Brown and Arlen Specter, the two U.S. Republican senators, flew in to Islamabad Sunday to make Pakistani leaders give second thought to their nuclear policy. The senators also held detailed meetings with Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao. The senators were delighted to tell newsmen in Islamabad that they have achieved their objective for peace in the region. They specifically welcomed New Delhi's flexible attitude toward the proposed conference. The revelation brought

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comfort to many minds. But the hopes that [were] shown during the senators' news conference have dimmed.

The observers, who from the start predicted doom, now claimed to have seen their fears confirmed. A word from New Delhi wiped the smiles off the world's peacemakers. Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao rejected the U.S. senators' claim that India has agreed to attend a five-nation conference. A spokesman of the Indian External Affairs Ministry has claimed that the five-nation conference proposal was not discussed at a meeting between the Prime Minister Rao and the U.S. senators.

Such a reaction by India makes a nonsense of New Delhi's intention to ensure peace in the region. Anybody who still believes in India's various pronouncements would clearly raise false hopes. New Delhi does not want to give up its nuclear program. If India is to be halfway honest, peace would flourish across the region any time. A genuine commitment to peace looks much further away. Optimism is hard to justify in the region. Risk is hard to pin down for it shifts constantly across many dimensions.

One has reason to doubt Indian intention. It is the inflexible approach of New Delhi's policymakers which could be blamed for all that has gone wrong up to now. Nor the Indian Ocean would not have grown wider had India not denounced the U.S. senators' efforts for peace. [sentence as heard] Those with historic memories would recall that it was India which opposed the idea of having such a conference some four years back.

Pakistan is not in the ignominious position for wanting better ties with India. Similarly, it would be silly to assume that Islamabad backed the proposed conference under some sort of diplomatic or moral pressure. What prompted policymakers here to welcome the U.S. senators' idea was a deep wish for peace and security in the region. The Indian top men resisted the two senators who attempted to snuff out New Delhi's nuclear ambition. There is a hypocrisy in the clamor that India wants peace.

India's no to the senators' invitation to peace exposed New Delhi's hidden design and ambition. People in the region wanted peace for they love to hate nuclear weapons. The sooner India changes its nuclear policy, the better for the people of South Asia.

Radio Welcomes NATO Air Strikes Against Serbs

BK3108014095 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 30 Aug 95

[Commentary by Mujtaba Akhtar]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The NATO warplanes bombed Serb targets around Sarajevo today to resist the fresh wave of human killings. The point which made NATO jump was the killing of 37 innocent persons by Serbs. The NATO action brought comfort to many perplexed minds. The NATO spokesman in his first reaction said the action will bring a significant change. He was hopeful about the outcome of the air strikes. NATO officials in Brussels said initial assessment suggests many targets have been seriously damaged or destroyed. The attacks had a significant way toward eliminating the Serbs' ability to bombard Sarajevo. [sentence as heard]

The causes behind the NATO action were the Serbs' inflexible approach toward the Bosnian people. What encouraged the Serbs most was the indifferent approach of the civilized world to man's inhumanity to man in Bosnia. Even the members of the peacekeeping mission watched such an unfortunate situation through the wrong end of the telescope, and that is what made the whole subject difficult to approach. There is a hypocrisy in the clamor that the Serbs stand hardier to the UN policymakers' wish for a peace. Such a claim by the policymakers has the world leaders across the globe chewing the end of their spectacles.

The war against Bosnia which ruined peace was denounced by every civilized nation, but it was not enough, as lip service did not produce the desired result. The UN silence over Bosnia was both painful and unfortunate. Many started blaming the UN for all that has gone wrong in Bosnia. Some said the UN's innocence is in doubt. The unending chain of diplomatic protests and pressure had been swiftly put down by the Serbs in the past. Bosnian prime minister during one of his visits to Pakistan had once said: The UN watchdogs are to be blamed, for they have neither bitten nor barked over the Serbs. He described the UN steps against the Serbs as the mildest wrist slaps, which he said would do more harm than good to Bosnia.

The Bosnian leadership in the past has made every possible effort to ensure peace and security to its people. The goodwill generated by the shared concern of the UN has now evaporated. Deep irritation has taken its place, mainly because of the Serbs' irrational stance. The civilized world, too, has developed sympathy for the battered and battling people of Bosnia.

NATO bombed Serb targets after the UN policymakers lost the battle to keep alive the fortunes of ensuring

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peace in Bosnia. Policymakers reaffirmed more than once that the UN's commitment to the security of Bosnia is ironclad. This pledge does not commit the United Nations to help Serbs to do inhuman acts. Mr. Butrus-Ghali's velvet-clad fist should be steely and impressing upon the Serbs their limit to support, beyond which the UN cannot be relied upon. The NATO attack speaks for Ghali's firm commitment to peace and security. It appears that NATO and Serb forces must now clash until one side slithers away. May God and the civilized world grant that the slitherer will not be NATO. NATO on this occasion is might, right, and much of the world opinion is on its side. Serbs, on the other hand, are determined to stamp their imprint on Bosnia and make it indelible.

The Serbs did resist the NATO attack and vowed to do it with every fiber in their body. But such a sermon sounds like a kiss of death for the poor man. The Serbs vowed to continue their [word indistinct] style of confrontation, but that way became one of the best reasons for guessing they will not. The best-laid plans, as is well-known, sometimes come unstuck. The Serbs' aggression against the innocent people of Bosnia was not well-laid. The light shining of the NATO air strikes against Serb targets today suggests that the Serbs no longer enjoy world support. Pakistan has welcomed the NATO action, terming it as the most appropriate move, which would help in ensuring peace and security in Bosnia.

Minister Departs for Official Visit to Beijing

BK3108071795 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0600 GMT 31 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali has gone to Beijing on a two-day official visit to hold talks with Chinese leaders. He will meet Qian Qichen, Chinese vice premier and foreign minister, and hold talks with him on bilateral relations, as well as on matters of regional and international importance. The foreign minister is also expected to meet Premier Li Peng.

The foreign minister's visit constitutes a part of the regular consultation between the two friendly neighbors and is aimed at promoting the existing cooperation between the two countries in the political, economic, and commercial spheres.

MQM Said Using Saudi Arabia as Communication Link

BK3008133695 Karachi DAWN in English 27 Aug 95 pp 1, 7

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KARACHI, Aug 26 — Interior minister Nasirullah Babar claimed here on Saturday [27 August] that Muhajir Qaumi Movement [MQM] activists were also clandestinely using a third country in the West Asia as a "channel" of communication.

"After the breakdown of their communication system in Pakistan, they (the MQM) are also using Saudi Arabia clandestinely as a channel of communication," he told a news conference at the State Guest House.

Categorically rejecting the impression that the Saudi government had anything to do with it, Mr Babar said the operation was being conducted through someone already in place there.

Giving reasons for not allowing Shaikh Liaqut Hussain from proceeding to Saudi Arabia, General Babar claimed that he was proceeding to Saudi Arabia for this purpose.

He further claimed that Khalid Bin Waleed, who was also taken into custody before boarding the plane, had disclosed from where the funds were procured and how the procurement of weapons was managed and financed.

General Babar contended that the underground secretary-general of the MQM, Dr Imran Farooq, had established contact with Altaf Hussain in London about a week ago following which the self-exiled founder of the party praised him for "courage and commitment".

He denied that the underground MQM leader was in his custody.

Gen Babar said there was a "qualitative change" in the overall situation in Karachi which was reflected by non-use of weapons in the last week's strike called by the MQM.

"Time is in our favour so far as the law and order situation is concerned, and we are in a much better position than we were a two months back," Mr Babar said, adding that "MQM has little control over the situation now."

He went on to say that "we have got it exactly where we wanted it, now we are getting them because our action is continuing and we are better informed than before."

He said that despite the decision to continue talks with the MQM, the process of law enforcement will continue. He told a questioner that about 70 to 80 "terrorists" have

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been arrested during the past two months. About 30-40 of them were in custody in Islamabad.

When asked how long these people would remain in custody without being produced in a court of law, the interior minister said that the terrorists were in custody on court orders and their confessional statements have already been recorded.

When his attention was drawn at the harassment of people *during siege of various localities to flush out "terrorists"*, the interior minister contended that normally these operations were targeted but in some cases it become unavoidable to surround the whole area.

He said that the siege of Lines Area, considered to be one of the strongholds of MQM (Haqiqi), was laid because "criminals" had taken refuge there and involved in extortion of money. It was unusual situation.

About the killing of eight people belonging to Hazara in Moosa Colony on Saturday, he held the MQM responsible and added that this would create public resentment. This killing has come two days after four Sindhis were killed in the city.

When a questioner asked this could also be the job of those who do not want the current alliance between MQM and the ANP [Awami National Party], interior minister said all aspects of the incident are being looked into.

He said that in the Punjab PML [Pakistan Muslim League] members have put pressure on the opposition leader, Mian Nawaz Sharif to reconsider support for the MQM in view of the recent killings in the city.

Gen Babar contended that allegations of attacks on the members of the MQM negotiating team were concocted and the incidents were "their own making."

Pointing out the allegation that North Nazimabad residence of Kazi Khalid Ali was badly damaged by firing, he invited journalists to visit the house and see for themselves that there was only one bullet mark.

Babar denied continued smuggling of arms and ammunition into Karachi and said a tight situation has been created for terrorists by sealing the entry routes.

Replying to a question, he said inquiry into the mid-air attack on a PPP MNA [Pakistan People's Party Member of National Assembly] was continuing but expressed the view that the incident could be the result of about 20-year old enmity.

He did agree with the questioner that the incident was a serious breach of security which was being looked into.

With regard to attack on BBC office in Islamabad, Gen Babar told a questioner that one of the attackers, who belonged to the student wing of Anjuman Sipah-i-Sahaba has been arrested and the Punjab police have also been asked to issue arrest warrants for Ziaur Rahman Farooqi for acknowledging that he had directed his followers to lodge a protest against a BBC production.

Replying to a question about utilisation of sugar recovered from hoarders as a result of FIA [Federal Investigation Agency] raids on their godowns, the interior minister said that with the consent of provincial government it has been decided that some of the consignment will be marketed and the other sold through Utility Stores and Jumma and other bazaars to facilitate the people by all means.

Official Berates 'Detrimental' Remarks

BK3008140295 Karachi DAWN in English 28 Aug 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KARACHI, Aug 27 — The chief MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] negotiator, Ajmal Dehlvi, said here on Sunday [28 August] that interior minister Nasirullah Babar's allegations that his party was using Saudi Arabia as a channel for communication were "irresponsible and detrimental to the national interest."

"This attempt to malign a brotherly country is very dangerous and will have serious repercussions on bilateral relations and adverse impact on the foreign policy," he told Dawn.

Saudi Arabia is not an ordinary country and the government would come to know of its reaction to the senseless allegations in a few days, he said.

The interior minister had told a news conference here on Friday that "after the breakdown of their communication system in Pakistan, they (the MQM) are also using Saudi Arabia clandestinely as a channel of communication."

He had categorically rejected the impression that the Saudi government had anything to do with it.

Mr Dehlvi said, "despite interior minister's denial, his remarks amounted to an aspersion on Saudi government's ability to check such activities on its soil."

He regretted that the government had become "so desperate in character assassination of the MQM" that it did not hesitate to implicate a friendly country.

About the planned talks with the government on Aug 29, the chief MQM negotiator said the process would be resumed as announced, "despite the uncalled for provocations by the government."

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Sixth Round of Karachi Peace Talks Concludes

BK3008164095 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The sixth round of talks between the government and [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] Altaf Group negotiating teams for the restoration of peace and normalcy in Karachi concluded this evening. The first session of the round of talks was held yesterday. The two teams examined and shortlisted their 18 and 21 points and decided that the stage has come when the two teams should consult their upper level leaders on some issues. Both teams decided to meet again on Sunday [3 September] at 1600 [1100 GMT] in Karachi.

Later, talking to newsmen, the leader of the government negotiating team, Professor N.D. Khan, said fruitful progress has been made in this round and it is hoped that further constructive progress would be made in the next round. He said both teams examined the situation with reference to the law and order situation in Karachi and Hyderabad. They also discussed some political issues in general. Prof. N.D. Khan said restoration of durable peace is the top priority of the government and in this respect the government team has gone forward enough. Even the prime minister, in her press conference, had hinted about the power sharing after restoration of peace and tranquility. He said the scope of talks is very broad and everything, including holding of local bodies election, can be considered. He said the government negotiating team reiterated the basic concern of the government for restoration of peace and tranquility. It asked the other side as to what extent it could cooperate with the government in this task. Prof. N.D. Khan said as Altaf Group has mandate of the people, it should come forward to assist the government in the restoration of peace. He, however, said nobody can be given license of killing and terrorism on the basis of this mandate. He said the government team sought two clarifications from Altaf Group side — one is about the owning by Altaf Group of terrorists who were killed in police encounters and second relates to giving calls for strike. Prof. N.D. Khan said they also raised the issue of propaganda in foreign countries by Altaf Group and asked it to explain what assistance it can provide to stop it.

Talking to newsmen, the leader of Altaf Group negotiating team, Mr. Ajmal Dehlvi, said some progress has been achieved in this round in relation to restoration of peace. He said it is our hope that some concrete things could emerge in this round, but they could not reach to that extent. However, we are not dissatisfied with the progress, which was achieved in this round. Mr. Ajmal Dehlvi said it has been our effort that differences could be narrowed down and all points of our charter of demands could be discussed. We hope that if the government implements our proposals, peace can be restored.

According to a press note, two persons were killed and two injured in different incidents of firing in Karachi today.

Party Official Denies Plan for National Government

BK2708123095 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Izhar Amrohvi, secretary of the Pakistan People's Party parliamentary group, has dispelled the impression that the government has given any thought to any sort of election or formation of a national government in the country. In a statement issued in Islamabad yesterday, he said the present government will complete its tenure in accordance with the mandate given by the people. He called upon opposition leader Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif to join hands with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto for peace, security, and harmony in the country.

Amrohvi condemned the recent attack on BBC's office and said that those responsible would be given punishment in accordance with the law.

Editorial Views Bharatiya Janata Party's Prospects

BK2408102295 Islamabad THE NATION in English 24 Aug 95 p 6

[Editorial: "BJP Menace"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] An American study has concluded that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) may well be part of a coalition government at the Centre after the Indian national elections due in 1996, although it is still not in a position to win a majority on its own. Riding on the crest of a Hindu fundamentalist surge that has radically altered India's political scene, the BJP has increased its strength in the Lower House of the Indian parliament, the Lok Sabha, from two in 1984 to 119 in 1991, is currently in power in four states, and the principal Opposition party in five. This is a remarkable record of going from strength to strength, which has helped the BPJ's efforts to project itself as the alternative government-in-waiting in mainstream politics. That image did suffer a setback over the Babri Masjid episode, since it betrayed the extremist Hindu chauvinist tendencies of the party. The episode has permanently alienated Muslims from the party and has also caused concern in the rest of India's polity. Although the Ramjanambhoomi [birthplace of Lord Rama] campaign was considered the high point of the BJP's anti-Muslim drive, ironically the demolition of Babri Masjid also served as a watershed, arousing enough alarm amongst

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Muslims and other forces in the Indian political spectrum as to take the wind out of the sails of any further attempts to demolish Muslim holy places on the spurious claim that they had been built over earlier Hindu temples. Otherwise also, the BJP has failed to emerge with flying colours in its test in office in the states in which it has held power, being unable to survive beyond one term. Although the study argues the BJP has picked up support from the downtrodden lower Hindu castes in many states, principally Gujarat, it fails to take account of the basic contradiction between the high caste bias inherent in the BJP's Hindu revivalist politics which is unlikely in the long run to appeal to the oppressed castes. A classic example of this dichotomy between the BJP's ambitions to speak for Hindus as a whole and its high caste 'Brahmin' profile was provided by the recent elections in UP, where the BJP lost to an alliance between the oppressed Hindu castes and Muslims. The American study exposes the real face of Indian secularism by arguing that it has always been "deeply religious and deeply Hindu", which has been the cause of its undoing over time. It does not see the rise of Hindu chauvinism "as an aberrant, transient, much less, perverse political trend" in Indian political life but rather argues that communal tendencies have deep and tenacious roots in Indian society and have, from the beginning, been an integral part of the mix, both of mainstream Indian nationalism and of the day-to-day practice of politics, especially at the local and regional levels.

The peeling away, as the study puts it, of the veneer of liberal secularism that has enveloped Indian politics and the exposure of the ugly visage of Hindu chauvinism that was always underneath it, may have serious consequences for the future of India as well as its neighbours. Bangladesh is already suffering from the bullying and pressure tactics of India on issues such as the Farakha Barrage and border demarcation disputes, while Pakistan is threatened day in and day out by belligerent sabre rattling by India's government as well as the BJP for its political, diplomatic and moral support for the cause of the Kashmiri liberation struggle. While the study may have overstated somewhat the real electoral prospects of the BJP in the next elections, given the factors analysed above, there is little doubt that the rise of the party poses a serious challenge to the Muslims in India as well as neighbouring Muslim countries, particularly Pakistan.

Editorial Attacks Ministry of Human Rights

95AS0472E Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 20 Jul 95 p 3

[Editorial: "Covering Up Guilt"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The government has reportedly decided to establish a separate ministry to protect human rights; the decision was taken during a meeting of the federal cabinet. In this connection, the government has named a committee under the chairmanship of Senator Iqbal Haidar which will make recommendations about the new ministry's scope of powers. The state of human rights has never been satisfactory in this country and governments have themselves been implicated in the violation of these rights. No particular government can be singled out in this connection; some governments violated human rights to a much greater extent than some other governments. None of the past governments, however, thought of creating a separate ministry to safeguard human rights. Since this government has proposed a separate ministry for human rights, one may conclude that it has made a commendable decision; but there is another side to this matter, namely, after a long time a government has come into office which is being accused by domestic and foreign circles of committing serious violations of human rights and is thus under great pressure. In view of this fact, the decision to establish a separate ministry of human rights appears to be an attempt to convince domestic and international public opinion that the government has been falsely accused of violating human rights and that the government in fact gives such high priority to human rights that it is creating a separate ministry [to safeguard these rights]. It is our view, however, that (if this is what the government's true intention is), it will not succeed in misleading domestic and foreign circles by establishing a separate ministry. The violations of human rights are concrete facts which can be verified in a dozen different ways. There are several other notable aspects to the government's decision. The country possesses a constitution which guarantees human rights; there are courts here which perform the duty of safeguarding human rights by their just decisions. The administrative branch can safeguard human rights by establishing the supremacy of the law. Thus, if the government makes certain that the constitution is upheld, the judiciary is allowed to be independent and the administration in performance of its duties, there would be no need to establish a new ministry to protect human rights. Whether the government acknowledges it or not, the creation of a separate ministry is tantamount to a confession that the government has failed to carry out the spirit of the constitution and make suitable use of the judicial and the administrative branches.

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One could also ask the government whether the dozens of ministries which have been placed in charge of various branches of activity have in fact set these activities on a straight course. Obviously, the answer would be in the negative. The question then is, how would the government be able to safeguard human rights by establishing a ministry for it. We would like to remind the government that human rights are not technical matters which can be protected through a ministry. There is only one way to protect human rights and that is by making society as humane as possible. The government cannot allow all manner of oppression and violence to spread in the society and then try to guarantee human rights by creating a separate ministry. It may not be difficult to fool public opinion but it is not that easy either; you cannot stand on a ministry fire engine screaming, we want to put out the fire, while fire engulfs everything within sight.

Reconciliation With Iran Over Afghan Policy Urged

95AS0473A Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 21 Jul 95 pp 10-12

[Analysis by Mukhtar Hasan: "Result of Pakistan and Iran's Differing Afghanistan Policies"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Some very fast-paced changes are happening in Afghanistan. The course of these changes had begun before the arrival of General Sardar Abdulwali Khan, special emissary of the former shah of Afghanistan and his son-in-law, in Pakistan and their contacting various persons and groups. The arrived of Sardar Wali accelerated these events. There were signs of these changes in Afghan politics before that. The agreement in policy of two of Afghanistan's most important neighbors, Pakistan and Iran, was becoming less pronounced. During the 14 years of Afghan jihad, Pakistan and Iran were the great supporter of the people of Afghanistan. Pakistan and Iran's actions in the Afghan crisis were harmonious even after the triumphant entry of Afghan mujaheddin in Kabul. Saudi Arabia was also equal supporter of the Afghan jihad. Except for two or three Muslim countries, all others were actively supporting the Afghan struggle for freedom. However, Pakistan and Iran were more involved and that is why both these nations worked in harmony.

During the 14 years of the Afghan jihad, Pakistan was more affected from the Afghan crisis as a front line nation than was Iran. It was also relatively more involved. Pakistan's involvement in the Afghan affairs was not just because of the war; there are very deep geographical, historical, cultural, ethnic, racial, and religious relations between the two countries. Pakistan and Afghanistan share a 1700 miles long border which is more for both countries than with any other nation. On two sides of Afghanistan, east and south, there is only one country—Pakistan. During the thousand years of Muslim rule, and before it, regions included in Pakistan and Afghanistan were part of one country. Even now, Pakistan and Afghanistan are "two camps in which only one family lives." That is why war and peace in Afghanistan effects Pakistan seriously. That is why during the Afghan insurgence, Pakistan was the first and last refuge for the Afghan refugees and the Afghan leadership also was living in Pakistan.

Pakistan played this role during the Afghan insurgence regardless of the leadership from Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto to Ziaul Haq and even after that. Because of being greatly influenced by Afghanistan and its people. Pakistan had taken Iran into confidence during the various phases of the jihad and the war. When Pakistan had to bear the huge burden of the Geneva talks and the complicated agreement, it informed the Iranian government of every detail.

Iran did not face the burden or the danger from the Afghan crisis as did Pakistan. At that time, Pakistan was the target of the former Soviet Union's anger. There were 4.5 million Afghan refugees in Pakistan. This was the first time in the history of world that refugees were fighting from another country to free their motherland. Pakistan was facing the danger of Soviet air attacks and widespread insurgence. Iran was safe and secure during this crisis. The number of refugees there was less than 1.5 million and of these two to three hundred thousand were the people who were working in Iran before the Afghan war started. The majority of the newly arrived 1.2 million Afghan refugees were family members of the Afghans living and working there. During that time, Iran started war with Iraq. The Afghan refugees helped reduce the shortage of workers caused by Iran's involvement in the war. The Iranian government instead of bearing the burden of supporting these refugees, just gave them the permission to work. The Iranian government could not help the refugees much because of its involvement in the war with Iraq except for allowing the aid from Pakistan to Afghanistan's western and northwestern region to pass through Iran.

This was the situation which did not change even after the war between Iran and Iraq ended. There would not have been ideological agreement between Iran and Pakistan during the Afghan jihad but for Pakistan's efforts to keep it that way because of the greater cause of the three countries. Although the Iranian government was not able to help the Afghan mujahids and the people like did Pakistan, Iran's support at diplomatic and ideological levels against the Soviet aggression was very

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bold. This was a great source of strength for Pakistan and the people of Afghanistan. One development took place during the last days of the success of the Afghan jihad which contradicted the joint policy of Iran and Pakistan. This development was the support of Iranian government for the vanquished puppet Najeeb. When Najeeb stopped at the Mashhad airport for fueling his airplane on his return from Eastern Europe, Najeeb had direct talks with Iranian officials. Najeeb's stop there was actually planned, but was not announced. The distance between Mashhad and Herat airports is hardly 150 miles and it was not necessary for Najeeb to land in Mashad for fuel. That is why there was expression of surprise and resentment at Iran's action. However, the Iranian government established contacts with Pakistan and Afghan mujaheddin and the policy to deal with Najeeb became harmonious among the three.

Pakistan had informed the Iranian government of all the details and consulted with it before the 1 April 1992 Peshawar agreement and the March 1993 agreement that was signed in Islamabad 11 months later. The Iranian sources gave the impression during this period that they were being ignored and this impression is being given again recently. At the time of the first event, important Pakistani officials and Afghan mujahids specially visited Iran to avoid any misunderstanding. In the context of Iranian impression, it is important to mention that if Pakistan had succeeded in getting agreement among various Afghan groups, it would have been because of Pakistan's deep involvement in Afghan affairs. This reflects the fact of "two camps and one family." It has nothing to do with disregarding Iran or any other country. Pakistan and Afghanistan are tied to each other and it is not true of any other country including Iran. If Pakistan was in position to take the initiative, it was because of all these geographical, historical, cultural, racial, ethnic, and religious relations as well as for playing the role of a "front line nation" for 14 years during the Afghan jihad. The Iranian government concedes the fact that Pakistan's government supports it at the diplomatic level. This is an important fact and must be brought to light.

The policy of prostrating before the United States adopted by Pakistan during the last three or four years is bothering Iran. The Pro-American posture of Pakistan during the 50's and 60's is thing of the past. Pakistani government's policy of obsequiousness to the United States is beyond Iranian government's understanding. The Pakistani foreign ministry could not present any explanation of this position to the satisfaction of Iranian government. This is apparent from the fact that Iran has formed a different policy than Pakistan over Afghanistan which is divided into several factions now. One salient factor of the flimsy remanent of Pakistan's Afghanistan policy is the equal treatment of various Afghan factions. Pakistan treats the five Afghan governments equally although Rubani-Masood administration in Kabul and others complain that Pakistan helps the other groups more. The Pakistani leaders, to rectify this situation, have started to say that we do not love anyone in Afghanistan. It would have been better if they had stated that we love all Afghans. Pakistan should share information about this policy with the Iranian government also. It should have taken Iran into confidence before the arrival of General Sardar Abdulwali, special emissary of the Shah, and the emergence of Taleban. Taking initiative in sharing information is important because Pakistan has unique involvement in Afghan affairs.

The reaction of the Iranian government over the arrival of Sardar Abdulwali in Pakistan was its contacting Isma'il Khan, commander of Herat's administration, and had helping Isma'il Khan against the Talebans. Now it has started supplying oil to meet the military needs of Kabul's Rubani-Masood administrations. In order to make the surface route safe, Rubani-Masood administration has deployed troops on the dirt road going from Kabul to Herat via Bamian and Ghaur. The paved road from Kabul to Herat goes through wide valleys via Ghazni and Qandhar. This is controlled by Talebans. The dirt road from Kabul to Herat goes through Hazarajat region which is controlled by Ayatollah Karim Khalili's Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity Party]. The Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami is part of Engineer Hekmatyar's four-party coalition. An interesting aspect of this is that the Iranian government has no objection to supporting Rubani-Masood government against the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami which is a Shia majority party.

The situation now is that the Rubani-Masood group has taken over the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami headquarter in Bamian. The Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami was forced to move its headquarter south in Hazara region of Ghazni province. Fierce fighting are going on for the control of Yakaluling situated on the dirt road between Kabul and Herat, west of Bamian province. Additionally, major part of this road in Hazarajat is under Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami control. This war in Hazarajat is a very important incident in Afghanistan. The Iranian government does not have any objection to Rubani-Masood group crushing Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami. However, it had expressed strong reaction when Ayatollah Mazari, leader of Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami, was killed in custody by Talebans group.

Whether Rubani-Masood succeed in controlling a part of Hazarajat and commanding the Kabul-Herat land

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route or fail in this effort or what effect this will have within and without Afghanistan is a separate issue. What we need to focus on is Iranian government's relinquishing the policy of non-alignment while dealing with various groups in Afghanistan. At present the situation is that a coalition against President Rubani could cause division of Afghanistan. Qazi Hussain Ahmed, chief of Jamaat-i Islami and architect of the Afghan jihad, had cautioned us that the activities of Sardar Abdulwali should not result in an anti-Rubani coalition. Similarly, any pro-Rubani coalition at home or abroad can be dangerous to Afghanistan. To avoid such a situation and its results, the governments of Pakistan and Iran should once again unite and try to get rival Afghan groups at one table for negotiations. Pakistan should immediately contact Iranian government and remove misunderstandings. Seeds should be sown for the two governments to work together in harmony on the Afghan issue just like in the past.

Article Views Demand for Separate Muhajir Province

95AS0472C Karachi AMN in Urdu 22 Jul 95 p 3

[Article by retired Air Marshal Asghar Khan: "Demand for a Separate Province"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A report to the effect that Muhajir Qaumi Movement demanded or intended to demand a separate province has set off a storm in the press. Political leaders from Sindh and other provinces as well have called this proposal an act of treason against the country and the nation. I do not agree with this view and regard such comments impolitic and unsuitable. The desire to change the number or the boundaries of provinces does not in any way constitute treason. If Pakistan is prosperous and strong, its four provinces can be made into ten or twelve.

An imperialist state of mind and feudalism have so affected people's outlook in this land called Pakistan that we accept easily a dictatorial center. Although we claim to have established a parliamentary democracy since 1972, we accepted a military dictatorship for more than 20 years. Feudal landowners and the exploiting class would be happy to see dictatorship re-established in the country. After the one unit experiment, our ruling class considers centralism necessary for administering the country. We do not have any federal system in the country and in fact, Pakistan's political system is not a federation but a unitary system. We have not learned anything from the East Pakistan [Bangladesh] experiment.

A province is essentially an administrative unit which should be used as a tool in solving the problems of the people. Today, the biggest problem is that of Karachi whose inhabitants suffer from a sense of deprivation and who are not given the opportunity to solve the problems of their own city. The residents of other provinces face problems which are similar though less serious than those of Sindh. In Hazara, Dera Ismail Khan and Bannu Division of the Frontier province; in Multan, Dera Ghazi Khan and Bahawalpur Divisions of Punjab the residents feel restless and deprived because the provincial governments do not pay any attention to them. In Balochistan's Makran and southern districts which are far from Quetta, the residents harbor similar feelings. The same kind of problems exist in the northern and eastern areas of Sindh such as Jacobabad and Tharparkar and the cause of these problems is centralism and distance from the capital city. Based on these facts, the suggestion that Pakistan should be divided into twelve instead of the present four provinces seems a reasonable one. Sindh should be divided, not into two, but three provinces; Muhajirs who are probably not in the majority in Karachi will not be in the majority in this southern province of Sindh but they will certainly have a more effective voice than at present. If, after ending the quota system and other such unjust restrictions and allowing the Muhajirs to run their own affairs, the Muhajirs should still fail to improve their lot, then the fault will lie with them and not anybody else.

Self-created, imaginary situations often push politicians into confrontation and create further hardship for the people. It is not surprising that we call our Muhajir brothers traitors because they want to live in Pakistan in a province of their own. We behaved in a similar fashion in East Pakistan; we did not allow the majority of the people there to form a government and called them traitors. Muhajirs are people whose fathers and grandfathers sacrificed everything they had for the sake of establishing Pakistan. The time has come when we should stop thinking of Sindh as the Brahmin's sacred cow which cannot even be discussed. It is necessary for the political stability of Pakistan and the prosperity of the people to divide Pakistan into twelve provinces. We should study the situation unemotionally and think of what is best for the country's poor and suffering majority. We should not allow politicians with large feudal land holdings to continue to fool the nation in order to protect their own interests.

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Article Cites Government Oppression of Muhajirs

Karachi AMN in Urdu 25 Jul 95 p 3

[Article by Tufail Ahmad Siddiqui: "The Creation of a New Administrative Unit"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Every Muhajir living in Pakistan, especially Sindh, is being subjected, directly or indirectly, to official provincial violence and injustice. The only party which represented the Muhajirs, the Muhajir Qaumi Movement [MQM], had provided a platform for all Muhajirs living in Pakistan and enabled them to start their movement under the leadership of Altaf Hussain. Today, members of this party and even those who sympathize with it are victims of the government's policy of genocide. There is no limit to the cruelties being heaped on the Muhajirs but their fight for their rights continues.

Forty-eight years ago, our forefathers on the subcontinent raised their voices for justice and cried out, we will have Pakistan and Pakistan is inevitable. They did not limit their struggle to shouting slogans but hundreds and thousands of them sacrificed their lives. They waded through rivers of blood until, as a result of the sacrifices of these founders of Pakistan, the day of freedom dawned on 14 August, 1947. Unfortunately, our forefathers did not know then that this land would suffer untold injustice and oppression; that life would be made unbearable for their descendants and the honor of those who shed their blood for this land would be trampled into the dust.

Pakistan means the land of purity but today, this land has become the opposite of pure. Traitors and looters have imposed lawlessness, oppression, corruption, nepotism, the loss of civil rights and many other evils on this country. The twenty and a quarter million Muhajirs living in the southern part of Sindh are the victims of all these injustices and cruelties. They have no province of their own and the awareness is growing among them that though they have their own identity, culture and Urdu language, they have been ignored since the founding of Pakistan and the paths of progress have been closed to them. All those Sindhis, Punjabis, Pakhtun and Baloch who believe in justice and are marching shoulder to shoulder with Muhajirs in this struggle for justice are suffering the same kind of oppression. Efforts are now being made to isolate politically Altaf Hussain who is the single and uncontroversial leader of the movement. False charges have been brought against him; he is being called a foreign agent and accused of being responsible for violence and terrorism. Imprisoned members of Muhajir Qaumi Movement are being forced to make false statements against the leader of the movement, Altaf Hussain. [His enemies] have not stopped at character assassination but are now trying to have this man, who is dear to millions of Muhajirs, arrested by the Interpol.

On the one hand, the government is pretending to negotiate in order to show that it is serious about restoring order while, at the same time, night raids are being carried out on Muhajir communities; they are being driven out of their homes; innocent Muhajir youth are being arrested and jailed in the interior of Sindh where they are subjected to inhumane treatment; looting goes on under pretext of searches. In spite of these injustices, MQM agreed to negotiate and after consultations, put forward an 18 point demand which, if carried out, would have ensured the establishment of a durable peace in southern Sindh. Instead of studying these demands, the government released its own list of 21 demands which are in fact serious accusations against MQM. The reason for this action was to provoke MQM into boycotting the negotiations.

Every member of the Muhajir nation told the leader of the movement, [Altaf Hussain], that the only solution to the problems of the Muhajirs living in Southern Sindh was to create a separate province for them. The expression of this view was in fact a kind of referendum. Thus, negotiations having failed, a separate province has been demanded and every member of the [Muhajir] nation has assured the leader of the movement of his cooperation.

Blood continues to be shed in Karachi and corpses pile up. The government has failed to restore law and order. Mere words and rhetoric are not sufficient to control the situation. In order to retore order in Karachi, the government should take MQM into its confidence. The government should learn from the past; if it fails to take the matter seriously, it will find it very difficult to control the independent group of young men who have taken up arms against oppression and violence. The hope is that the fourth round of negotiations will succeed and Muhajirs living in Southern Sindh will hear some good news.

Article Views Movement for New MQM Group

95AS0473B Karachi TAKBEER in Urdu 3 Aug 95 pp 14-15

[Article by Fariq Afghan: "Another MQM Faction Being Formed"]

[FBIS Translated Text] There is no doubt that the government and the Muhajir Qaumi Movement [MQM] are willing to negotiate face to face because of the pressure from the military. The eyes of our defenders are red with anger because of the failure, ineptness, incompetency, and factionalism that the politicians

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have demonstrated over Karachi. It is said that the military is upset at Benazir's and Altaf Hussain's narrowmindedness, but still does not want to involve itself. Therefore, it has sent messages to both groups indirectly that if this continues, they will be wiped out. Administrations, governments, and politics are for the country and not the other way around. Therefore, they must do something and clean up the filth they have spread. Otherwise, no one will be safe from what happens next. Whether there was any other effect of this warning, we do not know. However, one thing did happen: Both groups have agreed to hold negotiations. Both groups were already feeling the need for it. The MQM needs time to breath and get ready for the next attack and the government needs time to break up the MQM. Thus, since the beginning of these negotiations both were trying to prolong the talks and still earn a point for their sincerity and seriousness. The result of this political acrobatics was that after four rounds of talks no one could guess what deals were being made. The ridiculous exchange of 18- and 21-point proposals destroyed the seriousness of the issue. Later, both groups began to use various statements as ammunition or shield during these negotiations.

The MQM took advantage of this lull to obtain ammunition from infamous smuggler Tur Khan and other sources. It did not lack arms and ammunition in the past, however, the news spread after the 19 June operation, it buried all its ammunition at various points in the city. This could not be dug out during the recent factional conflict because of three reasons. First, many places where the weapons were buried were under the control of MQM (Haqeeqi). Second, digging was difficult because of the continuous surveillance of law enforcement agencies. Third, in some accessible areas, such a huge quantity of weapons was buried that if they had risked digging some weapons the packaging of remaining weapons would have been damaged resulting in their becoming rusted. Digging out these weapons was not possible because of the lack of needed manpower, need for a large number of digging tools, and fear of being caught during the digging. After some experiments, the MQM was not willing to repeat this action on a large scale. That is why new arrangements were made to supply weapons to the terrorists. A huge amount of weapons was purchased using money from robberies, forced donations, sale of skins, and money received from abroad. These weapons have been used against the police and the rangers for the last few months. Due to continuous internal fighting ammunition was all used up, and they needed peace to buy time to purchase more ammunition.

Meanwhile, the government also took advantage of this pause and accelerated its efforts to break up MQM. It knows that despite Altaf Hussain and his faction's belligerent policy, there is a quiet but ineffective group within the MQM that believes in political action. This group is quiet because of fear for its life although it is fed up with these ugly demonstration of icon worship. The government was trying to make this group effective, give it a voice, and include a number of youth that were arrested during the recent operation and who were not accused of serious crimes and want to get out of Altaf Hussain's web. The government thought that if such a group was formed, it would effect Altaf Hussain's bargaining power and also after giving credit for resolving some problems to the new group, more popular support could be provided to it. The government contacted several former and present MQM leaders who belong to the moderate faction of MQM to have them join this new group. Some of these include former and present Parliament members.

In my opinion this effort to encourage unnatural leadership in the MQM in order to break up Altaf Hussain's power structure would have been a failure just like what happened to the MQM (Haqeeqi). The Haqeeqi group was brought forward under the leadership of Afaq Ahmed and Amar Khan, However, despite the government help and support they failed to take root among the people. Only Altaf Hussain and his associates benefitted from the formation of the Haqeeqi group. They started an aggressive propaganda against the Haqeeqi group and it its leaders and presented themselves as the victims. They changed the hatred and distrust of the people from themselves to the new group. This feeling had reached its apex before the 19 June operation. They had also put the whole blame of all the extreme actions that these leaders were involved in at their orders on the Haqeeqi leadership. At that time these persons obeyed Altaf Hussain. After two years, Haqeeqi group can claim to have control over some parts of the city, however, it cannot say that it also rules the hearts of the people. The second experiment to present a leadership that can challenge Altaf Hussain was when Azim Ahmed Taraq was presented. He was definitely a danger to Altaf Hussain. He was respected both within and outside of the MQM ranks and he was given serious attention. He was wary of Altaf Hussain for a long time, however, because of his moderate and soft attitude he could not express his opinion openly. When he was ready to speak, Altaf Hussain had him killed. The problem for Altaf Hussain was that he had become a leader in Karachi on natural bases, however he wants to keep his leadership on artificial grounds. In order to get popular support, he raised he slogan to solve real, authentic, and actual problems. However, after becoming popular, he did not solve those problems either himself and let others have the ability to raise the voice to solve them. It is clear that if these

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problems were solved, there would be no support left for Altaf Hussain. How could he move the people toward extremism without showing them more problems? How could he convince them that he was alone and the whole Pakistan was his enemy? How could he convince them that it was necessary to get foreign help in order to get their rights? Altaf Hussain was part of the government for some time and enjoyed power. However, he never tried to solve any major problem that the people faced. He did not even mention them. Instead, all this time, he and other MQM leaders were busy in getting thousands of arms licenses, getting allotment of hundreds of land plots, appointing their active and loyal supporters to various government positions, giving them promotions or transferring them, committing robberies, forcing people to pay contributions, arresting their opponents, and torturing them. They did not pay any attention to ending the quota system, returning the people [Bihari refugees] besieged in Bangladesh, improving educational standards, and providing admissions to universities and employments on some merit system. Altaf Hussain is calling to two-nation theory bad now because the people in Bangladesh could not return. The question arises: what action did he take when he was in power? If Nawaz Sharif could use goodwill to have some families come and settle here, why could not Altaf Hussain start a movement in the whole nation and by increasing pressure solve this issue for good? Solving this problem is a far cry, he did not even mention it or make any demand about it when he was in power. Just to satisfy his ego and for financial gains and in exchange for MQM support he was successful in making Benazir and Nawaz Sharif visit Azizabad. Why could not he get his demand to have the besieged people freed? Perhaps, because he wanted to use this problem in a new format to get support of the people.

The government should understand the fact well that the people will not accept any "unnatural" leadership for the MQM. They will regard it as an insult. It does not matter how impressive a leader within the MQM is, he will be considered an Altaf Hussain creation. It does not matter what the government creates with the raw material received from the MQM, the people will not compare him to Altaf Hussain. This leadership will not have a separate identity since it will be borne out of Altaf Hussain's slogan for Muhajir nationality. Anyone who was created by the MQM and Altaf Hussain cannot confront them. No person from his own organization can challenge Altaf Hussain politically. The creation cannot be equal to the creator. Therefore, what we need is a young man from outside of MQM with zeal, courage, and a charismatic personality who can make Altaf Hussain's personality a blur and have people focus on his failures. The iron needs to be cut with steel; not with wood. For any natural leader the legitimate route that Altaf Hussain had taken is open. Those problems are not only still there, but have increased in number. A leader who wants to solve these problems seriously and takes them out of the narrow stream of Karachi and include them in the mainstream of the nation can supplant Altaf Hussain. Any other kind of experiment will be a failure. Muhajir nationalism cannot be challenged by Muhajir nationalism. A larger and more powerful circle always absorbs smaller circles. If a smaller circle than the one created by Altaf Hussain is formed, it will be ineffective. In order to fight it, we must make more powerful, energetic, and absorbing circle that can absorb it. The larger the nation, its philosophy, and ideology, the stronger the nation. No one respects a weak nation, weak group, or weak ideology. No one helps them, either. Its purpose could be to hurt the nation and its ideology. India did not participate in separating East Pakistan because it felt sorry for the rights of the people there. It just wanted to sabotage Pakistan's two-nation theory, the same two-nation theory that had Altaf Hussain's ancestors make the "mistake" of coming to Pakistan.

Sri Lanka

Australian Tamils Urged To Stop Funding LTTE

BK3008130095 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The minister of justice, Professor G.L. Peiris, has urged Australia's several thousand strong Tamil community to stop financial support for the Tamil terrorists. THE CANBERRA TIMES reported that Prof. Peiris met representatives of 13 Tamil groups during his visit to Melbourne recently. The minister has emphasized that Sri Lanka's economic development was being slowed down by the drain of a defense budget of nearly 7 percent of the gross domestic product. He said that the Australian Government was sensitive to the consideration which made the war inevitable from the government's point of view. A certain amount of money was coming into the LTTE's [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] coffers from expatriates, including Australia's Tamil community. The justice minister was confident that these resources are dwindling due to the political initiatives of the present government. He said that the 14-year civil war had not affected investment in Sri Lanka, which included Australian companies.

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Radio Reports Sinking of 2 Navy Boats by LTTE

BK3008121595 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Eight Sri Lankan naval personnel were yesterday reported missing in action when their Israeli-built Super Dvora P463 patrol boat was sunk by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] 5 km north of Mullaitivu in the Northern Province, military sources said yesterday. A second Dvora operating in this war had also been (?laid) and hit by terrorist fire and was burning last night. This vessel too was crewed by eight sailors. All 16 crewmen are presumed dead, a naval source said.

It is unclear whether the first Dvora that came under the attack was blown up by a mine or have been fired with RPG's [rocket-propelled grenade] from a rebel boat. Naval sources said that the first incident took place last afternoon and the second followed. Reports reaching Colombo speculated on the possibility that a passenger vessel have been used as a decoy to lure the patrol boats, one or two, escorting a northward bound cargo vessel. The explosion occurred when the Dvora moved to check this (?boat). LANKAPUVATH said that the Sri Lanka Air Force gave air cover when Dvoras attracted missile fire from the shore. The aircraft were unharmed. LANKAPUVATH said that the two LTTE missile launching positions on the Mullaitivu coast had been destroyed in yesterday's engagement.

At least 30 Tigers and 15 policemen were killed in a fierce three-hour battle when about 400 Tigers attached a police post on from Trincomalee-Nellagolly road north of Trincomalee on Monday [28 August] night, military sources said yesterday. A senior military spokesman said that the Tigers fled after the police, together with reinforcements, countered the attack. Official sources said 11 policemen were killed in the initial fighting. The other four died when a police truck hit a pressure mine after Monday night's fighting. A total of 77 constables and 30 Tigers were also wounded. Of the 77 wounded policemen, 51 were admitted to the Trincomalee Hospital, nine to the Colombo General Hospital, and 17 to the Anuradhapura Hospital. The police have seen the terrorists loading bodies into two trailers parked near the scene of the engagement. The whole area was covered with blood, military sources said. Police recovered the bodies of two Tigers. The Tigers had decapitated two of their victims, police said. Several buildings of the neighboring police post were also damaged by the pressure mine blast.

Government Calls For Release of Ferry Passengers

BK3008153795 Hong Kong AFP in English 1530 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Colombo, Aug 30 (AFP) — Sri Lankan authorities Wednesday [30 August] appealed to the International Red Cross to secure the release of 136 people aboard a hijacked ferry as the military stood-by watching Tamil rebels holding the vessel.

The government asked the International Committee of the Red Cross to urge the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) to free the passengers of the Iris Mona which is now anchored off the island's northeastern Mullaitivu coast.

Two navy gun boats which went to the rescue of the ferry Tuesday were attacked by the guerrillas who destroyed the two craft, killing all 21 sailors aboard, defence officials said.

Five of the navy bodies were handed over to the military through the local red cross in Mullaitivu, officials said.

Military spokesman Sarath Munasinghe said at least 10 rebel boats were destroyed, killing at least 30 guerrillas by the two gunboats just before they went down.

The airforce tried to send a Puccara ground attack aircraft to the area but that had to return because of intense rebel fire from heavy-calibre weapons and no navy craft was able to approach the Iris Mona.

"We have already lost two Dvora gunboats and we are not in a position to risk any more. We will watch the situation before we take a decision to move in.

"We believe that the terrorists used the Iris Mona as a decoy to attract two navy gunboats. They either used a sea mine, a suicide bomber or fired RPG's (Rocket Propelled Grenades) from the decks of the Iris Mona," Munasinghe said.

He said there was no radio contact with the ship and he had no information about the fate of its 128 passengers, all Tamil civilians travelling from the northeastern port of Trincomalee to the government-held areas of the north.

The LTTE is opposed to civilians living in areas under the control of the military which has been trying to expand the territory under its authority inside the Jaffna peninsula where the LTTE maintains a de facto state.

The LTTE's clandestine radio, the Voice of Tigers, Wednesday accepted responsibility for blasting the two gunboats but made no mention about the Iris Mona. [passage omitted]

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LTTE Launches Recruitment, Fund Raising Drive

BK3008144895 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] has launched a campaign to induce every family living in the Jaffna peninsula to send at least one member to join its fighting ranks and to collect funds.

The latest issue of the LTTE's official Tamil publication, VIDUTHALAI PULIGAL, has said that if at least one member of every family joins the movement, the soil will be protected and the families could feel proud. The publication says the LTTE is numerically weak and that would stand in its way of resisting the second phase Operation Leap Forward the security forces plan to launch in September. It said the security forces broke out of the forward defense lines at Tellipallai and Madagal where LTTE's strength was small and that they compelled the LTTE to withdraw and stage counterattacks a few days later. The LTTE is also calling for funds to buy arms for the impending assaults. If the sea and air wings have to be strengthened more has to be done and that needs money, the paper said. Travelers from Jaffna say that the LTTE has asked each family which can afford to pay 5,000 rupees to its Defense Fund. The LTTE radio Voice of Tigers announced a daily collection of the fund.

President Faults UNP's Handling of Ethnic Issue

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Chandrika Kumaratunga charged yesterday that the previous UNP [United National Party] government not only failed to address the protracted ethnic issue but exacerbated it by using state terrorists to suppress the agitation. They ruled the country for 17 long years and they could have resolved it if they had the political will, the president said. Addressing the Sri Lanka Farmers Conference held at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall, the president said they conceded that the UNP made some headway by turning to the open economy in tune with the global trend, but the benefits of the system did not percolate to the poor because of the rampant corruption and the war in the northeast. They offered no solution and the problem continued; so did the war.

The president said that certain so-called intellectuals in Colombo say that there is nothing called an ethnic problem in this country. Now they must send their sons to the war front. Their children are studying in Australia. Eighty percent of the soldiers fighting in the northeast are sons of farmers. Those who are fighting on the other side, too, are sons of farmers of the north and east. They are the people getting killed in the war, not the sons of these intellectuals who say there is no ethnic problem in the country. The president said that she had always been outspoken on this issue and candid in her comments which did not appear to be palatable to some people and even some close to her.

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